

# *The Silver Lining*

A black and white photograph of a forest. In the foreground, there are several birch trees with their characteristic white bark. The forest extends into the distance, where a small, white lighthouse with a dark top is visible through the trees. The sky is bright and overcast.

*Sometimes we allow the trees of the forest to obscure the Light of the Lighthouse.*

February 2004

Sermon by Brother Bro. Ben Manz, Junction, OH

### Isaiah 53 and Acts 2:29-47

If we were to add another verse to the chapter, we could possibly say, it was a blessed time. Loved ones, if we would sum up the situation that we are in today, we could say, it is a blessed time. Now with all the troubles that are going on in the world today, how can we say that?

Some of us that are older and have seen a few years of history, have seen the affairs of our nation go through some different administrations and different cycles, and at one time, perhaps, had a lot of hope; things are going to go better when this is over, and when this problem is solved, then it will be different. I am not here to complain, loved ones, but we have often been disappointed, haven't we?

But we turn to the Word of God and we find hope. We find truth, as we heard about this morning. We find encouragement. We find the fulfillment of God's promises. So, loved ones, we live in the good days. We live in the day of grace. But if we look to our help in the world, we are going to be disappointed. I am not making predictions for the future, but there is very little reason to believe that as far as worldly things, that it is going to get better. But in the Bible we find hope.

Here there was a group of people. Evidently, there were some brethren present. Evidently, there were some other people. We would possibly refer to them as our friends and neighbors. He addressed them as men and brethren (Acts 2:29). He spoke to them of this message.

Who was he speaking to, loved ones? He was speaking to anyone that had an interest. We would assume every person that was present was willing to listen. And we would hope that that would be true today.

He got right down to the business of the day, you might say. He did not talk about the political affairs of that time. It was a mess. Things were not going well. But I would like to think it was of very little concern to the apostles at that time. They didn't expend a lot of effort in trying to straighten out the political situation. Their mind was on

Christ. That's the way, that's the direction that the Word is pointing us.

He spoke here a little bit about the credentials of the Lord Jesus, referring somewhat, I believe, to the Old Testament (Acts 2:30-36). He wanted them to believe that the testimony that he gave, loved ones, was that Jesus Christ was crucified and that He rose again.

Now those of us, and those of those people who wanted to believe that, they could receive help. If we believe that Jesus Christ was the Son of God, that He is the Son of God, that He died on the cross, that He shed His blood for the remission of our sins and that He rose again, we can find hope, loved ones. The Word has something to say to us, even as it did to those people.

But it goes right back to the basics. When they listened to Him, when they heard His story, what He had to say, they came with the question, "...what shall we do?" (Acts 2:37). What do we do about this? And he said, "...Repent..." (Acts 2:38). The message that you and I hear over and over and over. Turn your back to sin. Turn your face to God. Forsake sin and the world. Take up your cross daily and follow me (Mark 8:34). The words of the Saviour. We have no other message, loved ones. That is what He is asking of us.

So God works the miracle of salvation. We read here that he said, "...Repent, and be baptized..." (Acts 2:38). And be baptized. "...every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ..." (Acts 2:38)

Maybe it would be a good time to talk a little bit about baptism. We read about it and we talk about it from time to time. Just what is baptism and what it isn't. I believe when I was a little child and we would stand by the tank and we would watch, when those that were older than us were immersed in the water and brought forth, we thought, now their sins are washed away. It was good for us to see it. It is good for the children today to observe a baptism. We hope to have one soon. We hope that we'll have many in the future.

But as we grew older, we were taught then in Sunday School and we learned by listening to the sermons, a little more about the process of conversion. I don't believe in my own mind, that I really understood it thought, un-

*Sermon continued on page 44*

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*"The entrance of thy words  
giveth light; it giveth under-  
standing unto the simple."  
(Ps. 119:130)*

# Light From The Word



Writings based  
on God's Word

February 2004

## The Hearing Ear

"The hearing ear, and the seeing eye, the Lord hath made even both of them" (Pr. 20:12). "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches" (Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 29; Rev. 3:6, 13, 22).

We hear a lot about sending clear messages, about sounding the alarm, about making sure the trumpet gives a certain sound. In school we spend many hours learning how to write a message so the reader can understand what we are trying to convey. We also spend numerous hours trying to learn to speak clearly. If the message is not clear, the hearer will not know what we really meant.

We also hear many prayers pleading with God that the message in a sermon can be spoken in simplicity and with clarity. Often we hear prayers asking God to provide a Holy Spirit inspired message. This is all well intended, and it is good, and sincerely appreciated by those who are called upon to speak. We are frequently reminded in the scripture that words are important. "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver" (Pr. 25:11). "The words of a wise man's mouth are gracious; but the lips of a fool will swallow himself up" (Ecc. 10:12).

Sending a message to another is important. It needs to be done well. Without clarity, the chances of a correct message getting to the intended audience is very slim. However, sending the message is only part of the communication process. A major part of communication is receiving a message, and we seem to spend very little time learning how to really listen. No one who is called upon to speak the Word of God would ever question the need for prayer that the words spoken would be Holy Spirit inspired. However, do we pray just as fervently that we, and others who are in the audience, will have Holy Spirit inspired listening?

On occasion, someone expresses a concern that they were not fed by a sermon or that they received no blessing that day. Certainly those who speak the Word of God bear the responsibility to be of a mind to be used by God to bring forth the

message as best they can by the grace of God. Is there also a responsibility on the part of the listener to be ready to receive a message from God?

When we consider that approximately 1/4 to 1/3 of our services are hymns and reading directly from God's Word, is there perhaps a bit of a problem on our part if we receive nothing from a service? If we heard nothing but the scripture reading, we have open access to God's Word and that by itself should give us a blessing.

Not all who are called upon to speak are gifted orators. Some days those who speak have more difficulty than on other days. In each case, however, when a significant percent of a service is hymns and words taken directly from the Bible, if we do not receive any blessing or if we are not fed at all, have we really prepared ourselves to be Holy Spirit inspired listeners?

As was stated in the opening paragraph, there is biblically based encouragement to hear. For most of us, God has provided the mechanism for hearing. We need to use what God has given us. How then can we become Holy Spirit inspired listeners?

There are a number of steps we can take that will improve our chances of receiving the message that God will bring to us. Have we filled Saturday evening with husks from the world? Have we gone places or have we done things that fill our minds with the vanities of this life? Have we taken the time on Sunday morning and Wednesday before services to prepare our minds to receive a message from the Word of God? Do we take time to be holy or do we involve ourselves in work or other activities until the last minute and then rush into church as the final hymn is ended, hoping to be fed? Certainly this can happen to anyone from time to time, but if it is a regular event, perhaps we need to examine our priorities and adjust our schedules. This will only happen if it is important enough to us that we will make it happen.

We can also improve our listening skills by focusing on God's Word more intently. Do we open our Zion's Harp and actively

sing or do we passively and only partially listen while others sing. After the scripture is read, do we close our Bible and casually sit back in our seat or do we keep the Bible open during the sermon so we can try to connect the message to the Word that was read?

The attitude we take with us to church will have a powerful impact on what we take home with us. If we consider it a privilege to be in church, to hear God's Word, and to spend time with other believers, we will increase our chances of receiving a blessing. If we go to church with a negative attitude, we will hinder our chances for a blessing. Are we partial to the ministers? If we "just know" that we will not be fed if a certain brother speaks, we probably will not get much out of the service.

Do we really focus on what is being said or do we allow our minds to be preoccupied by past events or future concerns? There are many distractions and our minds easily wander. We can, however, work at focusing on what is being said. Listening for key words or statements that relate to the scripture reading may be helpful. Relating past experiences to what has been said may also be of value. If we listen intently and repeat in our minds what has been said we may find it easier to focus on the message.

After services have ended and we have time to fellowship, do we discuss some of the key concepts or do we limit ourselves to shallow conversation about topics that are relatively meaningless?

Communication is a two way process. Each end of the process bears a responsibility. Those who speak must prepare their minds in such a way that God can use their talents to send a message from God "For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father..." (Mt. 10:20). Those who come to listen must be prepared so we can "...hear, and your soul shall live..." (Is. 55:3). If we receive as much as we pray for, in faith believing, how much will we receive? Within reasonable limits, we determine how much we are fed from the Word of God.



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN  
**World Relief**

As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men,  
especially unto them who are of the household of faith. GALATIANS 6:10

## Opportunities In Our Own Communities

**L**ocal projects are a real blessing to our congregations as we endeavor to help needy families in or near our own communities. Often, when we consider World Relief helping the needy, our first thoughts go to helping those in distant lands. Yet as we are challenged to fulfill God's commandments, we want to provide opportunities for our brotherhood by remembering the poor and providing for the needs of those living near us.

We are looking for work opportunities for those in our congregations who have a desire to labor for the Lord, but do not have the extra time or means to travel to far away places to volunteer. These projects also provide opportunity for our local church "family" to work and grow closer together in the spirit.

In 2003, we provided local opportunities for brothers, sisters, and friends in our Illinois and Indiana churches to do service for the Lord. Thirteen churches in Illinois and seven churches in Indiana participated in one-week summer projects.

Projects varied from small to large: cleanup, landscaping, interior and exterior painting, wheel chair ramps for the handicapped or elderly, tearing off and reshingling roofs, concrete demolition and replacement, new sidewalks, replacing exterior siding, replacing gutters, replacing windows, room additions, basement remodels, framing new walls, heating & air conditioning, plumbing, electrical, drywall and taping, woodwork trim, kitchen cabinets, and installing new carpet, etc.

What a joy to see an individual or family smile as they see their need being met because of willing servants sharing Christ's love. We have experienced many times where a recipient's heart is softened and more open to the Gospel message after seeing this love in action.

One testimony was shared by a homeowner with a colorful banner stating, "We would like to say; Thanks for Sharing! Your precious time, your various skills, your endless hours of labor, your Godly presence, your thoughtful prayers, your many sacrifices, and your unselfish gift of love! Because of Him, not only have you been a blessing to our family, but to many others who looked on from behind closed windows & doors. They too wondered, "could this really be true?" Our neighborhood will never be the same. May God's blessings shower upon you continuously! God is faithful; he will not forget your work and labor of love. Your labor is not in vain. You are changing lives."



Typically each church seeks out their own worthy project and designates a local brother as a team leader to oversee the work. In helping to find a project, we encourage each church to have their elder and/or World Relief representative ask their congregation if anyone is aware of potential projects. Also, one can contact other local organizations to see if there is anyone

who would need help. And let us not forget our own elderly and/or handicapped, widowed, etc. (Galatians 6:10)

World Relief furnishes a tool trailer that is fully equipped with tools for a one-week period for each church. Two brothers are responsible to tow this tool trailer to your church, help manage your project, and oversee the tools. A special part of each day is designated for a song and a Bible devotion. This helps encourage valuable friendships among the volunteers and expose the project recipient to God's Word.

The source of funds for the material for each project varies with each church, but typically comes from the charity fund, special fundraiser, local World Relief funds, etc.

## Local work projects

Individuals are encouraged to contact their area representative if they have any questions regarding work projects or have any suggestions for new opportunities. Contact these brothers to coordinate a one-week time slot for your church to schedule the tool trailer during the summer months of mid-May through mid-August.

Illinois	Bro. Marvin Sauder (309) 925-4171
Indiana	Bro. Gerry Waibel (219) 279-2582
Iowa	Bro. Martin Zaugg (515) 379-1693
Kansas	Bro. Paul Kaeb (785) 284-2653
Ohio	Bro. Ken Zollinger (330) 925-6370

Thanks to the many volunteers who have labored so fruitfully in this work. May God richly bless you as we strive to "do good unto all men."



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN

## Mission Committee

...The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest. MATTHEW 9:37-38

### Being Sent

This article was submitted by Bro. Bob and Sis. Joy Huber in response to a request from the Mission Committee. It describes their experience in "being sent" to serve in Imuris, Mexico.

"Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you." (JOHN 20:21) These were our Savior's first instructions to the disciples after His resurrection. All of the words of our Lord Jesus are precious, but it is interesting to note His first words and His last words recorded in the Bible. First words are important because they are foremost on a person's mind. Last words are also important, if not more so, because they have the greatest chance of being remembered. When Jesus first began His ministry, His first words were "Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." (MATTHEW 4:17) He didn't say "accept me" or "do good works." He called sinners to humble repentance.

And we know that His last words before His ascension were "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you." (MATTHEW 28:19) As we read these first and last words, we see the foremost desires of Christ... that we would repent, be converted, and then go and share the gospel with others.

Whether it is training up children, being a Christ-like example at school or in the workplace, or becoming a missionary at home or abroad, we have a God who has "called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given

us in Christ Jesus before the world began. (2 TIMOTHY 1:9)

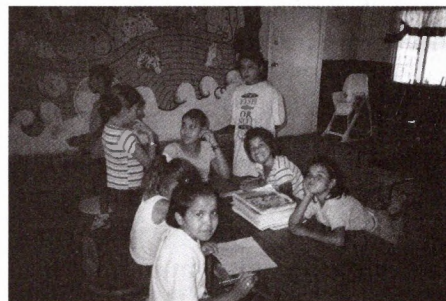
When Joy and I felt like we were being called to do mission work in Mexico, we sought the Lord's direction in prayer as well as counsel from brethren. A brother gave us a list of Scriptures on "being sent." When we read the number of times this concept is mentioned in Scripture, we were convinced that God's model for mission work is to function within the church structure, so that a praying church can support those that they send. "The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest. Go your ways: behold, I send you forth as lambs among wolves." (LUKE 10:2-3)

We had never thought too much about being sent before and were counting on God sending someone else. We counseled extensively with our local elder and the Mission Committee. Over a period of years, God changed our hearts, and it became clear that He was calling us to go to Mexico. The calling was gentle, but firm. Scriptures that we had read many times took on new meaning... passages such as Matthew 6:19-34, 25:35-40 and Acts 1:8.

It seemed like every Sunday the Lord was telling us through the sermon that we should go. We believe the Holy Spirit was preparing our hearts for a work that we would do together as a church body. The church was to send us. It was God's plan. Hymns like "Anywhere with Jesus I can safely go, anywhere He leads me in this world below..." were an encouragement.

During this time, we had fears for the safety and health of our girls and dreaded the separation from our families. We counseled with many

of the brethren, prayed and felt encouraged. Finally one day we felt we had to know for sure, because circumstances were such that we had to make a decision. We prayed together and opened the Bible to Acts 7:3 where God told Abraham to "Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and come into the land which I shall shew thee." Finally we were at peace about going. We visited again with the Mission Committee and were given permission to go. We were encouraged by their support and faithful guidance.



Children at Casa de Elizabeth Orphanage

We've been here at the orphanage Casa de Elizabeth in Imuris, Mexico for about a year. There are 100 boys and girls, ages 1 to 18 here who do not have parents or who come from broken homes. We help with physical needs, but our focus is the spiritual needs of the children. It has been a blessing to see how God has worked out the many details and is blessing the work. God can use us if we are willing to truly surrender our will to Him.

We as Americans and Apostolic Christians have been given much – and we have much to share. In Mexico there is poverty, but also a hunger for God's word. We are thankful to serve here on behalf of our church. May God richly bless all of you for your prayerful support and for sending us.

## **APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN HOME FOR THE HANDICAPPED**

A cup of cold water ... or a steaming bowl of soup ... how refreshing or comforting each can be! Recently I read about the Bible verse in Revelation that the Lord wants us to be cold or hot, not lukewarm. ("I would thou wert cold or hot" Rev. 3:15). Isn't it refreshing when we're thirsty to have some kind person give us a cold glass of water? Isn't it comforting when we're not feeling well if a caring friend makes us a hot bowl of chicken soup?

These words have inspired me recently as I view our staff and residents in all the homes interacting with each other. It is heartwarming to see the words, touches and acts of kindness shown to one another in the spirit of Christ's love, especially when given to a person who does not have the ability to pour a cup of cold water, make a bowl of soup, or even indicate that he/she is in need of refreshment or comfort. Often these acts or words are between residents who seem to know the times when their roommates or housemates need a compliment, word of encouragement, a backrub, or a hug.

Since this is the month that many celebrate human love and friendship, let's take time for the little ways we can be a blessing to each other and to our God, who is the author of all forms of love.

The group homes are planning to have a special Valentine Meal - either at home with special food and decorations or at a restaurant of choice for a banquet. At Timber Ridge the residents enjoy a party either at home with each other or going out with friends to a party with

the special recreation association.

"Let us love one another: for love is of God: and every one that loveth is born of God and knoweth God." (I John 4:7-8)

MARCH birthdays at Timber Ridge, 2125 Veterans Road, Morton, IL 61550: Judy Grimm (3/6), Susan Crose (3/15), Jeffrey Zimmerman (3/17), Thomas Christensen (3/20), Edna Haynes (3/23), Jon Wilhelm (3/26), Nancy Meister (3/31).

At Oakwood Estate, 2213 Veterans Road, Morton, IL 61550: Maretta Rokey (3/6) and Sheila Steffen (3/9).

At Hazelwood, 338 E. Hazelwood, Morton, IL 61550: Richard Bundy (3/12).

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## **GATEWAY WOODS APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME**

**Tim Sauder**

In our lives, our homes and in our ministries at Gateway Woods we are at war - at war against Satan, sin and its effects and its influences. As in any war, there are various fronts, especially the battlefronts and the home front. The battlefronts are in a variety of sites, in the arena of public ideas and policy, the courts and legislatures, the media and the culture in general, as well as in the workplace and neighborhood environments.

Scripture calls us to be "salt and light" and to be "in the world but not of it". We have a land that needs the help of those who stand on the solid rock of Christ and His Word. Our culture is so adrift that it cannot even figure out how to define something so basic as marriage or determine that a baby is a person

while still in it's mother's womb. We can help.

Whether it's with the Gospel or just plain holy living, the Lord has placed us in our communities, jobs and families to teach "publicly and from house to house" (Acts 20:20). In all areas of life, our actions, attitudes and words serve as "salty" preservers and luminous teachers of truth and righteousness. As watchmen and warriors we warn, defend and deflect against the darts of lies and the infections of deception. As models to our children, neighbors and co-workers we "by love serve one another" (Galatians 5:13) to God's glory and conviction of hearts.

However, there is an irony in that the battlefront can also be at the home front - spouse to spouse and parent to child. We must win the battle on the home front before we can ever hope to have any salt and light to spread around in the greater culture and public battlefront. In order to raise leaders who will stand for truth tomorrow, we need to be leaders today.

Christian dads and moms, uncles and aunts, grandparents, teachers and preachers, we have some overtime work to do just to stand the ground we have. In the first century the merits of the Christian faith were validated as one could simply say, "Look at the Christians. See the changed lives, the supernatural and sacrificial love, the selflessness, the service, the honesty ..." Our challenge is to make sure that message is still seen and heard - to the end of the age!

Our initiative to provide presentations to all of our Apostolic Christian churches in a three-year time span is progressing. I have the

blessed privilege of doing most of these. In recent months we have presented to Remington, Wolcott, Rockville, Roanoke, Tremont, Lacrosse, and Valparaiso. The Lord willing, in the near future we plan to be in Zapata, Princeville, Bradford, Kiowa, Wichita, Morton, Bloomington and Elgin, IL.

Gateway Woods recently had 3 residents leave our campus – all of them as positive discharges. Michelle C. went to live with one of our Christian foster couples, while Nolan G. and Joy K. returned to their homes. We truly pray that they will remember the lessons learned here.

Gateway Woods will be holding two Representatives Meetings this year. The first will be on February 21 at the Roanoke Fellowship Hall. The second will be held at Gateway Woods School on March 13. Please let your local church Representative know if you are coming. We would love to have you!

We were delighted to hear that Bro. Kevin Sauder, who was recently hired by Gateway Woods Family Services, and Sis. Jody Kaeb, who was recently hired as a teacher at Gateway Woods School, have been announced for marriage. We pray that God will use them as a couple as He so graciously has used them as individuals.

Thank you to all who continue to lift up this ministry in prayer. As one of our Board of Directors recently stated, "Gateway Woods is a ministry of prayer. Without prayer, we could not do what we do."

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## **APOSTOLIC CHRISITAN PRESCHOOL**

**Athens, Alabama**

**Bethany Gerber**

The staff would like to thank

Bro. Sam and Sis. Linda Schlatter (Junction, OH) for their time and effort volunteering for a week this month. They are faithful about coming every winter to help us out and we appreciate them very much.

We would like to ask everyone to pray for us. We are in need of a teacher/director with a degree in either preschool or elementary education to teach and serve as the director, so some teaching experience is desirable. If you are at all interested, please contact Bro. Mike Moore by mail at 8653 Beechwood Rd., Athens, AL 36511. You can also e-mail him at ALM38@aol.com or contact Bro. Mike by phone at (256) 729-0620.

The children are working very hard to learn their alphabet, numbers, shapes and colors. We are also working on manners. This is kind of challenging, but we have seen some improvement. Please continue to pray for these little ones. They need a lot of love and prayers.

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## **ALABAMA, ATHENS**

**Louise Hall**

**PLEASE PRAY FOR US.** Our need for a teacher is very great. The current opening is for someone with a degree in education, either preschool or elementary, to teach and serve as the director, so some teaching experience is desirable. If you are at all interested, please contact Bro. Mike Moore by mail at 8653 Beechwood Rd., Athens, AL 36511. You can also e-mail him at ALM38@aol.com or contact Bro. Mike by phone at (256) 729-0620.

We were blessed with two visiting ministers this month. Bro. Victor Bauman (Sis. Brenda, Smithville, OH) came with several people from Rittman and Smithville, OH, and had our regu-

lar service for us on January 11. Bro. Sam Schlatter (Sis. Linda, Junction, OH) were here for two Sundays and volunteered at the preschool during the week between. Bro. Sam preached the Word to us both Sundays. We are grateful to everyone who came and was part of our congregation.

Sis. Naomi Hall's sister and brother-in-law, Wynema and Julius Caldwell, both passed away recently. Wynema has been sick for some time now and Julius was diagnosed with cancer not too long ago. We wish that everyone would keep Sis. Naomi and her family in their prayers during this hard time.

We have another member of our congregation who is suffering a loss as well. Sis. Beci Fischer's grandmother, Sis. Mary Baurer (Tremont, IL), passed away from an illness this week and we ask God's comfort on Sis. Beci and her family. May God watch over them in the weeks and months ahead.

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## **ARIZONA, PHOENIX**

**Ron and Ev Hoerr**

"O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: for his mercy endureth forever."

*Psalm 118:1*

Bro. Todd Hinrichsen and Sis. Heather LaBudde have our prayers and best wishes on their engagement announcement January 11. Their parents are Bro. Larry and Sis. Kathie LaBudde and Bro. Mark and Sis. Sue Hinrichsen (Roanoke).

We are grateful for our visiting ministers and the messages from God's Word. Elder Bro. Tom Klotzle (Altadena), Bro. Ken Lawson (Dallas), Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Champaign), and Elder

Bro. Tom Hoffman (Roanoke) served on our pulpit this past month.

Those in our congregation who have lost loved ones have our deepest sympathy. These include Sis. Lois Neimeyer, LaVonne Doorneweerd, Sis. Katherine Laukhuf, Sis. Verene Sutton, and Bob Farney.

We welcome Bro. Philip Stoller from Congerville who was led to move to Phoenix and assemble with us.

Our friend, Leah Wiegand, was announced for peace and is awaiting baptism. May you feel God's special love at this time.

Sis. Stacia Witzig and Dakota Thorpe were surgical patients. Many were sick when the flu hit our families, children and adults alike. The only prescription that worked was prayer; praise the Lord.

We joined our hearts and minds January 17, as Elder Bros. Wayne Banwart and Jon Kokanovich read the Memorandum. How great to be encouraged in our walk with the Saviour.

Dear readers, we know times are insecure. Prayer and more Bible reading will encourage us all and we will find comfort and peace.

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### ARIZONA, PRESCOTT Jane Hodges

George Kornja (son of Sis. Elena) was readmitted to the hospital after Christmas for pneumonia and stayed there about a week, then another week at a nursing home until he was able to go back home. Sis. Rowena Furrer (Bro. Jim) was released from the hospital without the doctors being able to diagnose her problem, but since she started feeling better, explor-

atory surgery was aborted. She continued to improve for a couple weeks, but once again is experiencing the same symptoms. We are praying that the doctors will be given the wisdom to diagnose the cause of her illness and that she will be healed.

Bro. Dennis Rassi (Sis. Diane, Fairbury, IL) ministered to our small group on New Year's Eve. We appreciated that they called to let us know they were visiting in our area and could lend their support. May God richly bless them.

With the start of 2004, our church no longer has assigned visiting ministers as in the past before the Lord gave us two ministers of our own in November 2002. But Bros. Jim Furrer and Dan Dubach would appreciate the support of fellow ministers if they are visiting Arizona and we would love to have more visitors to fill our sanctuary.

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### ARIZONA, TUCSON Lisa Knapp

We had three visiting ministers over the past month. Elder Bros. Jon Kokanovich (Phoenix, AZ) and Wayne Banwart (Champaign, IL) visited Tucson and shared the Memorandum with us. We thank them for their efforts of love towards our little church. Also, Bro. Neal Widmer (West Lafayette, IN) traveled through Tucson on his way to Mexico and shared the Word with us from the pulpit. We want to thank him for his willingness to serve.

We are enjoying seeing our winter visitors arrive to enjoy our warmer climate. We were even able to ring in the new year with a few of them.

Our weather has been a little

cool the past few weeks but we still have lots of that beautiful sunshine to enjoy. We have also enjoyed a little rain mixed in with the sunshine, for which we are always thankful.

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### CALIFORNIA, ALTADENA Robin Moser

"For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh."

*Ephesians 5:31*

We rejoice with Sis. Rebekah Rokey over her engagement to Bro. Koertland Beyer (Sabetha, KS). It is never easy to "lose" someone in a small church, but we pray God blesses Rebekah and Koertland wherever He leads them.

We were thankful for the visiting ministers who shared the Word with us this month including: Elder Bro. Phil (Sis. Maureen, Bluffton North, IN) Stettner and Bro. Todd (Sis. Michele, Silverton, OR) Zollinger.

Bro. Bill (Sis. Mary) Witzig is recuperating well from a heart procedure in the hospital. Many prayers were answered on his behalf.

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### CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO Peggy Jevremov

We were blessed to have more visitors this month. Truly we have such a precious fellowship. We were thankful to have ministering Bro. Darren Fehr (Sis. Nora, West Bend, IA) serve us during their visit here. May the Lord be his Rich Rewarder.

This past month has found two of our loved ones in the hospital. We are thankful they are both out now



and have been able to reassemble with us again. Ervin Sarok suffered several broken bones and a head injury when the vehicle in which he was riding had an accident. We are thankful the Lord spared his life and that he is steadily recovering. Matthew Fulop, infant son of Bro. Denes and Sis. Joy, underwent surgery and is back to his little smiling self.

We welcome Bro. Jim Klotzle (Bro. Tom and Sis. Jodie, Altadena) to our congregation. He has recently taken employment in our area and will be living here. We look forward to having him assembling with us.

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**CANADA  
KITCHENER, ONTARIO  
Ingrid Fortenbacher**

Our visiting ministers this past month were Elder Bro. Mark Bahr (Sis. Bev, Detroit, MI), Bro. Clint Schmidt (Sis. Magdalena, Winthrop, MN) and Bro. Dan Stoller (Sis. Diane, Rockville, CT). We are so thankful to these loved ones who have so often driven the many miles to minister to us.

As we welcome in the New Year, many of us make resolutions. May we include a resolution to keep the Lord as number one in our lives, to keep the faith, and keep striving till our days on earth are over.

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**COLORADO, DENVER  
Ann Gonglach**

While the world is celebrating "love" around Valentine's Day every year, it's a reminder that we are blessed to know what true love really is. God's Word tells us what it is and God's love for us enables us to love each other. "Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one

another." (I John 4:11)

The Gal Family (Bro. George, Sis. Tina, Adam, Heidi and Bethany) welcomed a new blessing into their home on Christmas Day; a precious daughter, Danyel. Danyel had to be hospitalized for a few days but is now home and doing well again.

We were glad to have the opportunity to get to know Sam Moser (Rockville, CT) who was working in Denver for a few weeks.

On April 3, we plan to hear Autumn Hohulin's testimony, as she has found peace with God and desires to be baptized. Her parents are Bro. Doug and Sis. Sharolyn.

We're looking forward to having Communion, in remembrance of our dear Lord and Saviour, on April 4. Let's remember to prepare our hearts and lives for this special time.

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**CONNECTICUT  
ROCKVILLE  
Laura Virkler  
Amber Reutter**

When pure and upright hearts,  
By flames of love ignited,  
Are by the bond of faith,  
more firmly yet united.

*Zion's Harp #79*

We rejoice with our Sis. Sarah Lanz and Bro. Philip Wagenbach (Philadelphia, PA) as they were joined in Holy Matrimony this past month. Parents are Bro. Sherman and Sis. Joanne, and Bro. Don and Sis. Marie. We wish them God's richest blessings and pray that He will guide them as they begin a new life together. With us for this special occasion were Bro. Jerry Isch (Sis. Linda, Philadelphia, PA), Bro.

Mike Ursu (Sis. Barb, Kitchener, Ontario), and Bro. Doug Wagenbach (Sis. Lillian, San Diego, CA). It was a blessing to have these brothers with us and pray they will be rewarded for their diligence.

Two families were blessed with new little ones this past month. Moses Clarence was welcomed by Bro. Glenn and Sis. Erica Hoffman, who joins his brothers, Isaac and Micah. Bro. Kenny and Sis. Nancy Willis welcomed a precious new daughter, Emily Mae, who joins her brothers and sister, Chris, Michael, Crystal and Eric. We are thankful for their safe arrival and wish these parents much grace in raising these precious children.

We wish a speedy recovery for those who have been hospitalized recently. They are Bro. Eddie Luginbuhl (Sis. Alma) and Sis. Joyce Hunt (Bro. Harry). May the Lord heal and restore where it is His will.

How shall it be when now the soul unfettered,  
Goes soaring upward in unhindered flight.

*Zion's Harp #146*

Our sympathy is extended to the family who this month has suffered a loss. Sis. Esther Gruening leaves her sister and brother-in-law, Hulda and Anthony Dobosz, and Antoinette Dobosz Piader and John Piader and their children, Jason and Ashley. She also leaves a sister-in-law, Ruth Erismann. We hope that God will cheer and comfort each one.

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**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
WASHINGTON  
Henrietta Meyer**

“What therefore God hath joined together...”

*Matthew 19:6*

Several from our congregation were able to travel to Peoria to witness the wedding of Sis. Liz Meister (Mark and Becky, Wilmington, DE) and Bro. Adam Hermann (Dennis and Sis. Ginger, Morton, IL). May God bless their union.

“Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing.”

*Proverbs 18:22*

Believing it is the Lord's will, the announcement was made of the engagement of Bro. Adam Merkle of our congregation and Sis. Jill Gramm (Leo, IN). Parents are George and Karen Merkle of Bluffton, IN, and Bro. Don and Sis. Rosie Gramm of Gridley, IL.

On December 21 our Sunday School class shared the Christmas story with us. Renaud and Suzi Subra opened their home to our congregation for a holiday potluck dinner in January.

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Shawn Metzger (Sis. Sandy) and Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand (Sis. Michelle), both from the Philadelphia congregation.

At this time of the school year many young people are trying to understand what the Lord's will is for their life as they complete their schooling. We would urge you to prayerfully consider the Washington, DC area. There are many opportunities in a wide variety of fields, in many different locations and we would be blest to have you be part of

our small but growing congregation. We would be happy to assist you in any way we can.

Specific job opening: A family in our congregation is looking for a live-in nanny for at least one year starting anytime after April 1, for two boys, ages 6 and newborn. Free room and board and generous salary offered. For more information contact Suzi and Renaud Subra at (301) 468-6111. If two feel led to come out, I know of another family also looking for a nanny.

Services are usually held the first, third, fourth and fifth Sundays of the month at the Tysons Corner Westpark (Best Western) Hotel, located about one-mile west of the Beltway (I-495) on Route 7. Song service begins at 10:15, worship service at 10:30; afternoon service begins at 12:15.

If you are planning to visit Washington, D.C. for vacation or business, please call Bro. Adam Merkle (703) 929-7941 or Bro. Adam and Sis. Liz Hermann (703) 516-4345 for assistance and to let us know how many to expect for Sunday services. If you would like to get together on Saturday evening, please let us know that as well. We would be happy to have an evening of fellowship and/or singing.

**FLORIDA  
FORT LAUDERDALE  
Renee Mangold**

We were thankful to have with us visiting ministers, Bro. Jeff Streitmatter (Sis. Lynne, Sarasota, FL) and Bro. Tom Bolliger (Sis. Jane, Tremont, IL). Bro. Joe Braker (Sis. Shirley, Morton, IL) helped with services again this December. Elder Bros. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington, IN) and Earl Ringger

(Sis. Dixie, Gridley, IL) came and held Communion services. We pray for God's blessing on His servants.

We enjoyed a meal and singing with friends and brethren following our Communion service this month.

Our sympathies are with Sis. Bonnie Bako whose husband, Zoltan, recently passed away. The Bakos are winter residents here in Ft. Lauderdale. Our prayers for comfort are with her.

We would appreciate any ministers planning a trip to Ft. Lauderdale to contact Bro. Roger Sauder at 954-584-0947. We are on a visiting minister rotation and this would be helpful in our scheduling.

**FLORIDA  
NORTH FORT MYERS**

**Mary Masters**

As we reflect on this coming new year, we want to remember that we are called to be salt and light in this world. As a preservative, salt is used to prevent decay of food. We are called to prevent moral decay in the areas where we are living. Salt also is used to enhance flavor. God wants us to help others discover the joy of an enhanced life of knowing and living for Him.

Visiting ministers this month were Bro. Carroll Gerber (Bluffton North), Bro. Everett Gerber (Rockville, CT) and our dear Elder Bro. Ed Schwartz (Bluffton). We thank these brothers for their willingness to be spent on our behalf.

Wednesday night services are being held at a location in Naples, in addition to our north Fort Myers church to accommodate those who live closer to that area.

We continue to enjoy a large increase of numbers in our congrega-

tion. Last Sunday, a good sized group went to sing at the home where our dear Bro. Rolland Keller resides. We also visited and sang at the home of Gene and Alice Myer. Alice is doing better, but is still unable to assemble with us.

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## FLORIDA, SARASOTA

### Carol Koehl

Sarasota has marked another milestone in our church history. Dedication services were held on Sunday, January 11, for our new Fellowship Hall addition. We were encouraged to continue to honor the Lord in all our activities.

We appreciated Elder Bros. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) and Duane Farney (Croghan, NY) reading to us the Memorandum. Other visiting ministers this past month were Elder Bro. Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI), Bros. Everett Gerber (Rockville, CT), Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH), Ted Hirstein (Atlanta, GA), Joe Dotterer (Smithville, OH), and Marvin Steffen (North Fort Myers, FL).

At the time of this writing, Sis. Marie Reardon is still in rehab, but hopefully will be going home soon.

We were thankful to help Sis. Edna Roscher celebrate her 90th birthday, when her family held a surprise reception for her after church on December 28.

Your correspondent wishes to thank everyone for all their expressions of sympathy during the loss of my dear mother, Sis. Marge Laukhuf (Latty, OH). My parents were winter residents here for fourteen years. Please continue to pray for my father, Bro. Ken.

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## GEORGIA, ATLANTA

### Carol Kaufman

We are so thankful that Bro. John Steiner (Sis. Carol, Oakville, IA) was able to come and minister God's precious and holy Word to us this past month. May God richly bless him for his labors of love.

Our prayers are with Bro. Linn Stoller's family in the passing of his father, Bro. Gene, of Leo, IN. Ben Stoller (Bro. Linn and Sis. Brenda) recently had surgery and we are thankful that he is recuperating well.

Also on our prayer list have been Bro. Tom Waldbeser's mom, Sis. Joan, of Cissna Park, IL, and Bro. Tom's brother, Bro. Mark Waldbeser, of Cissna Park, IL. Both have spent time in the hospital and are now at home.

We have been so encouraged and blessed by those who have stopped by and worshipped with us. We truly appreciate the prayers that are offered on behalf of our little congregation. We look forward to the fellowship of the brethren. If you have plans to go south this winter, remember to include us. Give us a call to help us plan for Sunday lunch and other activities. We encourage you to set aside time Saturday evening, Sunday evening or during the week for fellowship. We meet on the second and fourth Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm. The church is located off I-85 south of the Atlanta airport at Exit 64 in Fairburn, GA. Once off the exit, go west four miles and the church will be on the left. For more information or to let us know of your plans, please call Bro. Linn Stoller 770-631-4554, Bro. Keith Kaufman 770-304-8335 or Bro. Tom Waldbeser 770-463-4788.

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## ILLINOIS, BELVIDERE

### Doreen Moser

### Sheila McCoy

My heav'nly home is bright and fair,  
Nor pain nor death can enter there  
It's glitt'ring tow'rs the sun out-shine;  
That heav'nly mansion shall be mine.

Our sympathy to Bob and Sis. Elaine Mueller as their son, Rob, has left his earthly home. Our prayers are with their family and we hope to some day meet again in that heavenly home.

My Father's house is built on high,  
Far, far above the starry sky;  
When from this earthly prison free,  
That heav'nly mansion mine shall be.

Our teachers here on earth are still sounding the gospel message. Bro. Wayne Laubscher (Cissna Park, IL) was our visiting minister this month. Oh, if only more would seek their heavenly mansion and be freed from this earthly prison.

Let others seek a home below,  
Which flames devour, or waves  
o'er flow,  
Be mine a happier lot to own  
A heav'nly mansion near the throne.

As another New Year is upon us, may we continue more fervently in prayer, in song, in charity, in worship, to praise our Heavenly Father and continue on the path to Heaven.

I'm going home, I'm going home,  
I'm going home to die no more!  
To die no more, to die no more,  
I'm going home to die no more.

*Hymns of Zion #247*

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**ILLINOIS  
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL  
Kara Martin  
Rebekah Kaufmann**

We appreciate the following ministers who spent time with us this month: Elder Bros. Dale Eisenmann (Chicago, IL), Ervin Knecht (Eureka, IL), Earl Ringger (Gridley, IL), Tom Stock (Cissna Park, IL), Ted Witzig, Sr. (Morton, IL), and Bros. Mark Gerber (Bluffton, IN), Brian Huber (Francesville, IN), and Jaye Rinkenberger (Goodfield, IL).

"And the Angel said..." On December 21, we were privileged to hear the Christmas story from our Sunday School students. We heard messages God sent through angels to Zacharias, Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds, and how their reactions to the messages can be applied to our lives today. We thank the students and teachers for their hard work in presenting the program to us through song and words.

We rejoice with Bro. Jared Rinkenberger and Sis. Heidi Inoue as they were united in marriage on December 28. Parents are Bro. Kenny and Sis. Devon Rinkenberger (St. Louis, MO) and Hisato Inoue.

"The Lord bless thee, and keep thee: The Lord make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The Lord lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace."

*Numbers 6:24-26*

We will miss Sis. Christa Kaeb (Bro. Dave and Sis. Brenda) as she has moved to Leo, IN to fulfill an Assistant Houseparent position at Gateway Woods.

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**ILLINOIS, BRADFORD  
Steve Endress**

"Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD..."

*Psalms 127:3*

We rejoice with Bro. Bill and Sis. Kristal Stahl as the Lord has blessed them with a healthy baby boy. Kyle William was born on January 9 and is welcomed home by his brother, Ryan. Grandparents are Bro. Lyle and Sis. Betty Stahl and Bro. Lawrence and Sis. Elaine Wagenbach, both of Princeville, IL.

December 21 was the wedding of our Sis. Janelle Endress (Bro. Gary and Sis. Ev) to Bro. Doug Brewer (Sis. Kathy Brewer) of Peoria. We are thankful for the ministering brothers who delivered exhortation and instruction to the church and to these two souls. They were Elder Bros. Wayne Banwart (Champaign) and Chuck Hemmer (Peoria) and ministering Bros. Rick Plattner (Fairbury) and Ken Hoerr (Peoria).

Bro. Don Manz (Junction, OH) spent the last Sunday of the year with us and we appreciate his efforts as well.

We are always thankful when we see the willingness of our brethren to serve in various offices in the church. Recently, the church placed the responsibility of trustee upon Bro. Steve Ehnle (Sis. Karen). He replaced Bro. Jack Knobloch (Sis. Nancy) who served the church

faithfully for many years. We also appreciate the willingness of Bros. Tyler Joos (Sis. Tonya) and Troy Pyles (Sis. Heather) to serve the church as ushers. We thank Bros. Ben Endress (Sis. Katie) and Bruce Endress (Sis. Elizabeth) for their years of service in this office. Finally, Sis. Rebecca Joos (Bro. Robert) replaced Sis. Charlotte Stahl on the kitchen committee.

We continue to offer our prayers for Sis. Elizabeth Kimble as she has undergone additional surgery and continues recovery. We have appreciated beholding her cheerful countenance amidst adversity. If God should grant her full recovery, we know that there will be obstacles for her to overcome and we fervently pray that God will provide for her in ways that the hand of man cannot reach. When we look at our God as One who has our best interest in mind and that the path He has chosen for us brings our purification and His glory, we find a blessedness that is found nowhere else. If we can take this example and submit ourselves in all things, we shall be blessed.

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**ILLINOIS  
CHAMPAIGN-URBANA  
Karla Kieser**

Be not dismayed whate'er betide,  
God will take care of you;  
Beneath His wings of love abide,  
God will take care of you.

Greetings from Champaign-Urbana! At the start of the new year we sometimes feel the need to make resolutions and attempt a fresh start but it is more important that we do this every day and not just at the beginning of

each year. It is comforting to know that whatever each new year may bring, God will take us under His wing and care for us.

The month of January saw the wedding of our dear Bro. Neil Banwart (Elder Bro. Wayne and Sis. Charlen) to Sis. Leann Lehman of Bern, KS (Elder Bro. John and Sis. Connie). Our prayers are with them as they make their home in Washington, IL, and we encourage them to visit Champaign often!

We thank our visiting minister for this past month. We appreciated the efforts of Elder Bro. Ben Wiegand from Philadelphia.

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### ILLINOIS, CHICAGO Rachel Meyer

Just when we thought the Chicago Silver Lining space would be empty this month, little Shae Dawson appeared! Shae was born to Bro. Sam and Sis. Sherri Nenadov. No doubt big brother, Skyler, will be welcoming him home soon. I am reminded of the song I learned in Sunday School, "Jesus Loves the Little Children." Since we as believers are to become like little children according to the Bible, it seems to me that every Silver Lining announcement we read about souls newly baptized into the fold is like a birth announcement too!

There is "...One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all" (Eph. 4:6). We all seem to have a constant wish that we could set aside more time to spend with God in prayer and reading. We want to be able to "get away" from our daily routine and worship Him more fully. I stumbled across the above verse just last night, which reminded me that

worship does not always have to be an event to attend. God is with each of us all the time, and no place is any closer to God than the place where we are right now. Setting aside time for prayer, reading and attending church is crucial. And we can supplement that worship by remembering every single moment of every single day, that God is ready, yes, hoping to hear from us! We are never alone.

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### ILLINOIS, CISSNA PARK Andrea Walder Susan Waldbeser

"Whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst, but the water that I give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life."

*John 4:14*

There are so many ways that the Lord provides us with that living water. As we assemble in the Lord's house on Sundays and Wednesday evenings, our cups are often filled to overflowing through the preaching of God's Word. Brothers who visited us this month and were used to bring that living water to us were Bros. Kevin Knapp (Bloomington, IL), Tom Waldbeser (Atlanta, GA), Jeff Neihouser (Francesville, IN), Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL) and Dan Moser (Elgin, IL).

"Quicken me, O Lord, for thy name's sake: for thy righteous' sake bring my soul out of trouble."

*Psalm 143:11*

A number of our congregation have been afflicted with illnesses, surgeries or accidents this month. Our prayers have been with Sis.

Joan Waldbeser (Bro. Fred), Bro. Melvin Stock, Sis. Lavern Farney, Sis. Evelyn Rudin (Bro. Ben), Bro. Bill Maul (Sis. Wanda), Sis. Mary Hofbauer, Sis. Clara Hofer, Greg Martin, Bro. Mark Waldbeser (Sis. Janie). We think, too, of our Sis. Nettie Obergfel who is residing at the Iroquois Memorial Resident Home in Watseka. We pray that these dear ones can be given an extra measure of patience to endure these afflictions.

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Sis. Elsie Ehman who went to her eternal rest this month. Our prayers are with her sister-in-law, Sis. Virginia Ehman and her family. Our sympathy has also been with the family of Bro. Gerry and Sis. Geraldine Farney on the passing of Sis. Geraldine's stepmother, Sis. Ada Grusy. The Lord alone can fill the void that a loved one leaves us and we know He will comfort and provide.

"It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto thy name, most High."

*Psalm 92:1*

What a blessing it was to gather December 17 and listen to our precious young people sing the beautiful hymns that tell of Christ's birth!

January 7 was the date of our annual business meeting and election. Bro. Dale Waldbeser was chosen for Sunday School, Bro. Bruce Frank as Trustee and Bro. Eric Kaeb for Fellowship Hall Committee. May God be their guide in their new assignments.

We were thankful to hear of the engagement of Sis. Traci Rudin (Bro. Arlyn and Sis. LaNae) to Bro. Tim Leman (Bro. Larry and Sis.

Marilyn) of Eureka. We pray that God will be with them during their engagement and bless them in their marriage.

We extend a special thanks to Sis. Denise Walder for her three years of writing the Silver Lining.

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## ILLINOIS, CONGERVILLE

### Arlene Banwart

We rejoiced January 4 in the baptisms of Bros. Ben and Jonathan Virkler (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gayle) and Sis. Allison Rapp (Sis. Sara and the late Bro. Phil). Now we are thankful that Anna Rinkenberger (Bro. Jake and Sis. Glenna) has found grace to repent.

Our congregation is always thankful for visiting ministers that share the Word. Elder Bros. Charles Sauder (Tremont, IL) and Mike Lemman (Denver, CO) and Bros. Tom Lemman (Denver, CO), Dave Steffen (Elgin, IL), Dale Frank (Oakville, IA) and Dale Banwart (Wolcott, IN) shared this past month.

Hospitalized this past month, but thankful to be home again are Bro. Charles (Sis. Martha) Rinkenberger, Sis. Millie (Bro. Carl) Schieber, Sis. Mae Schrock, and Bro. John Dietrich (Sis. Renae) who had a hip replacement. Barb Tracy's husband, Thomas, remains hospitalized. We pray God will be with them all.

Bro. Max and Sis. Suzanne Hoerr are happy first-time grandparents of Zebadiah James Beyer born December 28. Zebadiah's parents are Tim and Sarah Beyer of Roanoke.

This year, let us try to do better at lifting up one another. In a recent sermon we heard in part: "We come together and talk about how our

week went. Yes, it went good, or no, it went bad, and the different struggles we had. But how about our thoughts that occurred to us as we read God's Word? What did the Spirit reveal to us that we found interesting in God's Word, or what did we notice that was a blessing to us or that gave us encouragement? These are the everyday small experiences that God gives us. Yet we need to share these so we can lift one another up as well."

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## ILLINOIS, ELGIN

### Amy Gasser Miriam Gasser

"I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth. He will not suffer thy foot to be moved; he that keepeth thee will not slumber."

*Psalm 121:1-3*

It was comforting to hear this Psalm read during our first service of 2004. We thank Bros. Dan Koch (Tremont, IL) and Alan Schambach (Remington, IN) for visiting Elgin in the past month and ministering to us the Truth.

Those who have undergone surgery include Bro. Norm (Sis. Ginny) Schock, Bro. Bill (Sis. Cora) Schambach and Sis. Joyce Schifferer. We pray for God's healing touch in their lives and a return to good health. Sis. Amy Gasser is thankful to be making gradual progress after her recent surgeries and has begun to assemble with us again.

Our congratulations are extended to Brooks and Donna Boyce, who recently adopted Mitchell

Wyatt, born December 11, 2003. He is welcomed by his brother, Nolan, and grandparents, Guy and Barbara Boyce and Bro. Howie and Sis. Pat Schifferer.

On January 14, we gathered for our annual business meeting. It was interesting to be informed of the many labors and contributions required to keep our church facilities and outreaches functioning well. Bro. Bryan Kellenberger was selected to replace Bro. Paul Weiss as church trustee and Bro. Gary Steffen replaced Bro. Dan Cargill as trustee of our Fellowship Center. We thank you brothers for your service.

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## ILLINOIS, EUREKA

### Lisa Metzger Cindy Stoller

There are two families welcoming home new babies this month. Amber Ann was born to Bro. Dan and Sis. Holly Bradle. Amber's brothers are Jesse and Jordan. Grandparents are Bro. Roger and Sis. Ila Bradle and Bro. Wallis and Sis. Diane Feuchtenberger (Morris, MN).

Bro. Alan and Sis. Angie Huber are blessed with a daughter, Erica Joy. She is the new little sister of Kevin. Her grandparents are Bro. Gary Huber and Karen Huber and Bro. Paul and Sis. Kris Schmidgall.

We are thankful that another precious soul has started on the way to salvation. Our prayers are with Brent Blunier (Bro. Roger and Sis. Wendy).

We have had several marriage announcements recently: Bro. Tim Lemman (Bro. Larry and Sis. Marilyn) to Sis. Traci Rudin (Bro. Arlyn and Sis. LaNae, Cissna Park, IL); Bro. Lowell Stoller (Bro. Jim and

Sis. Jane) to Sis. Molly Schmidgall (Bro. Paul and Sis. Kris); Bro. Kevin Vierling (Bro. Jim and Sis. Linda) to Sis. Brenda Huber (Bro. Gary and Karen); and Bro. Phil Wettstein (Bro. Jake and Sis. Mary) to Sis. Kristin Wuthrich (Bro. Kenneth and Sis. Lora, Pulaski, IA). May the Lord be near as they plan for their future lives together.

Our friend, Brent Martin (Bro. Alan and Sis. Sharon), was married to Jessica Crouch (Dennis and Joy, Eureka) on January 10. We wish them God's rich blessings.

"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints."

*Psalms 116:15*

Sis. Ada Grusy was called Home on January 4. We extend our deepest sympathy to her family and loved ones.

Our medical and hospital patients were Bro. Ray Rocke and Sis. Pauline Rocke. May God watch over them and grant them healing.

We have been blessed with several visiting ministers recently. Elder Bros. Art Bahler (Fairbury, IL) and Bruce Hohulin (Goodfield, IL), and Bros. Lenny Meyer (Chicago, IL), Loren Schrenk (St. Louis, MO), Duane Rocke (Minneapolis, MN) and Kent Getz (Elgin, IA). We appreciate their labors on our behalf.

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### **ILLINOIS, FAIRBURY** **Tammy Hinrichsen** **Joann Zehr**

Various ones from our congregation have been in the hospital or have been experiencing various health problems, including flu. We are aware of some of them: Bro. Vernon Hartman (Sis. Pat), Fannie Steffen, Sis. Betty Wiegand (Bro.

Richard) and Sis. Martha Fehr. Some of the residents at Fairview Haven were also quite ill with the flu. Sisters Vi and Lavina Moser have been having some health problems. May God give His healing mercies to all of these and if we have missed naming some, it was unintentional, and we ask God to be with them also.

Our love and sympathy is extended to Bro. Mark Runyon (Julie) in the death of his father, Sam Runyon, 77; and to Sis. Dixie Steidinger (Bro. Doug) in the death of her father, Jerry Fosdick, 59. May you feel God's help during this time. Also, our dear Sis. Betty Sohn, 93, passed away on January 17 at Fairview Haven. May God bless those who helped care for her, those that stayed with her during the last days of her life, including her niece, Sis. Lucille Sohn and Sis. Anna Lou VanAntwerp.

We rejoice with Bro. Joel Plattner (Bro. Rick and Sis. Mary) and Sis. Amber Kilgus (Bro. Kevin and Sis. Denise) from Forrest as their engagement was announced on January 18. May God's blessings be with them.

We want to remember our dear ministering brothers who visited us and ask that God will provide a special blessing for them. They are Elder Bros. Tom Stock (Cissna Park, IL) and Jay Luthi (Lamont-Gridley, KS), and Bros. Duane Rocke and Dewayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN), Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), Jerry Wagenbach (Oakville, IA) and Jim Kaeb (Bern, KS).

We gathered with our brethren at Forrest on Saturday evening, January 17, to hear the reading of the Memorandum. Elder Bro. Peter Petrovic (San Diego, CA), along

with our Elder Bros. Wayne Anliker and Art Bahler, gave us very timely instructions and guidance. Life is so serious and might we each stay close to God so that we can make it to our Heavenly reward. A special thanks to these Brothers for their labors in our behalf.

We know that each of us go through deep valleys at times in our lives and some burdens are known and some are not. But we know that some in our congregation are having extra cares and concerns, and we feel like there is so little we can do. But I am reminded of a sermon of Bro. Hartzell Kaisner where he stressed the great power in prayer and that is one thing we can do for each other.

Again, another year has ended and our Fairbury congregation had 3 weddings, 5 deaths, 3 baptisms and 15 births during 2003.

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### **ILLINOIS, FORREST**

**Linda Anliker**  
**Lori Dotterer**

We are thankful that we have brothers who are willing to spend time in Sunday School and teach our children about the plan of salvation. Those brothers who have recently finished their terms are Bro. Bob Anliker (Sis. Linda) and Bro. Ernie Leman (Sis. Carol). We give our prayerful support to Bro. David Eisenmann (Sis. Jackie) and Bro. John Schmidgall (Sis. Janet) as they assume these responsibilities.

December 28 was the wedding date of our Sis. Jennifer Kerrins (Darren and Peggy) and Bro. Trent Johnson (Bro. Harry and Sis. Til). We wish them God's richest blessings and continued guidance as they continue on as one in the Lord.

We are thankful for visiting ministering brothers who have shared the Word of Life with us. Those visiting this month were Bro. Paul Gasser (Akron, OH), Bro. Curt Rassi (Tremont, IL), Bro. Brian Waibel (Champaign, IL), Bro. Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL) and Bro. Dale Stoller and Bro. Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL).

Our prayers have been with those who have spent time in the hospital, including Bro. Lloyd Honegger (Joyce), Sis. Laura Wenger, Brandon Mueller (Bro. Jay and Sis. Jolene), Bro. Rich Rieger (Sis. Marian), Don Stephens (Marge) and Honore Zimmerman (Bro. Mike and Sis. Jeanette). May they all feel God's healing strength.

Our prayers have also been with those who felt the loss of loved ones. We extend our sympathy to Bob and Sis. Elaine Mueller (Belvidere, IL) as their son, Robby, passed out of this life. Derica Friedman (Curt and Jane Friedman and Mark and Debbie Duncan) lost her life in a car accident. Her grandparents are Bro. Henry and Sis. Marge Friedman. Our prayers are also with the family of Sis. Nathalia Wenger as she was called Home. She leaves behind her children, Sis. Mary Bachtold (Bro. Marvin), Bro. Ed (Sis. Renee), Bro. Rich (Sis. Jill), Marvin (Rita), Sam (Teri) and Sis. Marge Bauman (Bro. Ben). May God be with each of these families and comfort as only He can.

#### *Notes of Thanks:*

We would sincerely like to thank all of our friends and neighbors for the food, gifts, cards and all the trips you made taking me for radiation. Also for your concern and help since Duane's surgery.

Thank you too for remembering me on my birthday. We would appreciate your continued prayers and ask God to bless each one of you!

*Bro. Duane and Sis. Janny Schneider*

We, the Robby Mueller family, would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all for being there for us in taking care of our many needs with the passing of our special angel. God bless.

*Robert and Sis. Elaine Mueller  
Steve and Tina Mueller*

*Bro. Eldon and Sis. Stephanie Kaeb*

*Brian and Denise Mueller  
Keith Mueller*

#### **ILLINOIS, GOODFIELD**

**Rita Bauman  
Heather Hohulin**

"Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer."

*Psalms 19:14*

We were so blessed to hear the testimony of our new Brother in Christ, Bro. Dean Zimmerman (Sis. Inge). We rejoice with he and his family, and continue to hold them up in prayer. Bro. Dean also lost his mother, Sis. Ada Grusy, and we offer our deepest sympathy.

Our sympathy and prayers are also with Bro. Alfred and Sis. Marie Kieser and family in the loss of his brother, John Kieser.

We also offer our sympathy to Sis. Marge Bauman (Bro. Ben) in the loss of her mother, Sis. Nathalia Wenger.

We rejoice with Ray Wagner (Sis.

Vi). He has found peace with God and we look forward to his testimony.

We are thankful for our visiting ministers this month: Elder Bro. Ervin Knecht (Sis. Sandy), Bro. Don Manz (Sis. Connie) and Bro. Jim Rinkenberger (Sis. Jeanne).

#### **ILLINOIS, GRIDLEY Perry A. Klopfenstein**

A phrase reads, "They Stand Best Who Kneel Most." This is very true. It is good instruction to those who propose to live a Godly life. Only as we bow in prayer, often, can we stand against all that the enemy hurls at us.

How we live each day certainly has an affect on how we impact the lives of others. And our deeds live on, perhaps for years and years. This was proven true, literally, when I encountered a man from town who made inquiry about a former minister, Bro. Guy Miller, who lived in Gridley from approximately 1937 to 1947. He mentioned that Bro. Guy was such a kindly man who bought and sold eggs in the community. And he said when he weighed eggs "he always gave the customer the benefit of the doubt." That took place 50 to 60 years ago. And yet today, a man still remembered, and his recollection of Bro. Guy's kindnesses lived on in his heart. As I drove away from this short discussion, my mind was overwhelmed at the power of kindness. The light we reflect may not dim for many years.

A review of 2003 revealed four weddings, seven births, five deaths, and nine baptisms. Seven souls await baptism. We thank God for His work in our congregation.

Sis. Jill Gramm was announced



to marry Bro. Adam Merkle of Washington, D. C. She is the daughter of Bro. Don and Sis. Rosie Gramm. His parents are Dr. George and Karen Merkle, Bluffton, IN. We wish them God's blessings as they prepare for their April 25 wedding.

Bro. Jaron and Sis. Julie Schlipf became the parents of Melody Marie, born on December 12. She is the younger sister of Madison Marie, 3. Grandparents are Bro. John and Sis. Jill Schlipf, Gridley; and Bro. Steve and Sis. Gerri Schrock, Congerville. Great-grandparents are Bro. Ralph and Sis. Winifred Schlipf, Gridley; Bob and Lillian Schierer, Eureka; Sis. Irene Schrock, Eureka, and Sis. Elna Nussbaum, Fairbury. May God direct them as they train up this dear child in the way she should go.

Several are recovering from surgery: Sisters Dorothy Ringger, Sue Stella, and Marge Kuntz.

We offer sympathies to Sis. Vi Hany over the loss of her brother, Clarence Jenkins; and to Bro. Larry and Sis. Barb Kiefer over the death of their sister-in-law, Ruth Kiefer.

Bro. Ron Bollier was a visiting minister.

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**ILLINOIS, MORTON**  
**Julie Bahr**  
**Christie Zeller**

A new little bundle of joy has arrived to the home of Bro. Terry and Sis. Janeen Baum, Asher Hayro. He is welcomed home by big brothers, Derek, Riley, and Micah, and big sister, Kinsey. We wish them and their family God's continual blessings.

Lillian Bridgeman passed away December 22. She was a sister to our late Bro. Henry Binkele. Her

services were held at Knapp-Johnson Funeral Home. She had worked at our Restmor Nursing Home for many years.

Sis. Margaret Joos passed away December 23. She was the mother to our Bro. Bob Joos. May our Heavenly Father comfort these dear families.

We are so happy and thankful to announce the engagements of our Bro. Jay Knobloch (Bro. John and Sis. Cheryl) to Sis. Bonnie Waibel (Bro. Dan and Sis. Karen) of Peoria, IL; and the engagement of our Sis. Sarah Rassi (Bro. Gary and Sis. Debbie) to our Bro. Seth Webb (Bro. Brian and Sis. Jane) of Ft. Lauderdale, FL. We wish these dear couples God's constant love and grace as they walk together with Him.

Our visiting ministers for the month were: Bro. Ted Hirstein (Sis. Joyce, Atlanta, GA), Bro. Glenn Funk (Sis. Sally, Wichita, KS), and Bro. Scott Schafer (Sis. Gigi, South Bend, IN). May God bless these dear brothers for their labors of love.

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**ILLINOIS, PEORIA**  
**Lou and Marjean Lonteen**

"Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee."

*Psalm 119:11*

On January 7, Bro. Steve Sauder (Tremont) was our Family Night speaker. He presented to us "The Feasts of Israel." We were enlightened and inspired. Thank you, Bro. Steve.

"This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you."

*John 15:12*

On December 21, Bro. Doug Brewer married Sis. Janelle Endress in Bradford. Parents are Sis. Kathleen Brewer and Bro. Gary and Sis. Evelyn Endress (Bradford).

On December 28, Sis. Liz Meister married Bro. Adam Hermann in Peoria. Parents are Mark and Rebecca Meister (Wilmington, DE) and Dennis and Sis. Ginger Hermann (Morton).

On December 31, Sis. Bonnie Waibel and Bro. Jay Knobloch (Morton) announced their engagement. Parents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Karen Waibel and Bro. John and Sis. Cheryl Knobloch (Morton).

"And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God."

*Romans 8:27*

On January 4, the Washington Choir along with the 1st and 2nd grade students shared their praises to the Lord at our Hymn Sing.

On January 12, a funeral was held for Bro. Bernie Ziegenhorn. We extend sympathy to his sons, Roger and Don, and to all the family circle.

"Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith..."

*Hebrews 10:22*

New offices were announced. They are as follows: Trustee - Bro. Carle Hoerr; Sunday School Teachers - Bro. Steve Leuthold and Sis. Brenda Kieser.

"This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws in their hearts, and in their minds will I write them"

*Hebrews 10:16*

*Note of Thanks:*

Harry and I want to give you our special love and thanks for all of your support and sincere prayers during my recovery from surgery. God bless you all.

*Harry and Loretta Eisenmann.*

Prayers are appreciated for Sis. Sharon Causey.

"The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, as the rivers of water: he turneth it withersoever he will."

*Proverbs 21:1*

### **ILLINOIS, PRINCEVILLE** **Phyllis Knobloch** **Crystal Streitmatter**

"Count your many blessings, name them one by one!" This can be very encouraging throughout our lifetime, but especially at the ending and beginning of a year. God has blessed us abundantly and we rejoice in His goodness!

Bros. Brad Eisenmann (Chicago, IL) and Mark Streitmatter (Bloomington, IL) ministered to us on December 21. Our Sunday School Christmas program was that evening. What a blessed day to witness the old and the young praising God!

Bros. Fred Witzig (Indianapolis, IN), Greg Stoller (Forrest, IL), Kenny Dietz (Bradford, IL) and Rick Plattner (Fairbury, IL), ministered to us on Christmas day. On the 28th, Bro. John Grimm (Columbus, OH) was with us. We thank all

of our visiting ministers, along with our own Princeville ministers. You are all very special to us!

Bro. John (Sis. Lil) Elsasser, 84, passed away December 27. We will miss his cheerful smile. He was truly a pillar in our church! He had been in the Peoria Skyline's for several months.

Bro. David and Sis. Kara Blunier added another wee one to their household on December 28. Siblings, Faith and Marcus, are delighted with their brother, Jerod Marvin. Maternal grandparents are Elder Bro. Marvin and Sis. Jane Leman (Bradford, IL) and great-grandmother is Sis. Lucille Kieser, also of Bradford. Paternal grandmother is Sis. Joyce (Bro. Dale, dec.) Blunier and great-grandmothers are Sis. Edith Stahl and Sis. Kathryn Blunier (Minneapolis). Also we are happy to say that little Jerod was followed closely with another new cousin! Colton John was born January 14 to Bro. Darrin and Sis. Keri Blunier. Excited siblings are Cody, Malory, Clayton and Madison. Maternal grandparents are Bro. Howard and Sis. Mary Ann Herrmann and great-grandmother is Sis. Esther Herrmann who resides at the Peoria Skylines. Paternal grandmother is Sis. Joyce (Bro. Dale, dec.) Blunier and great-grandmothers are Sis. Edith Stahl and Sis. Kathryn Blunier (Minneapolis). God bless you all in these joyous events!

Emma (Aaron) Stahl, 87, passed away December 31. She was a sister to Sis. Martha (Bro. Burton, dec.) and Sis. Esther (Bro. Nate) Martin of our congregation. Also on January 1, Robert (Bernadine) Cambron, 82, passed away. He was

a brother-in-law to our Sis. Edith Martin. May God comfort those of us who have lost loved ones!

We are thankful to report that our dear friend, Amanda Herrmann (Bro. Doug and Sis. Angie), has turned her heart toward the heavenly goal! We rejoice with her and pray that we can be a good example to her. God bless you richly, Amanda!

We had a happy occasion on January 4 when Sis. Jill Baurer (Bro. Ed and Sis. Carol) became the bride of Bro. Shannon Stahl (Bro. Norman and Sis. Gloria) of Chicago. It was a very wintry, snowy day. Although many of our own congregation couldn't make it, we had nine visiting ministers along with many, many other visitors from a distance. The ministers were Elder Bros. Tom Klotzle (Altadena, CA) and Curt Frank (LaCrosse, IN), Bros. Lenny Meyer and Virgil Metzger (Chicago, IL), Frank Sauder (Roanoke, IL), Duane Reutter (Rockville, CT), Art Mueller (Belvidere, IL), Fred Witzig (Indianapolis, IN) and Dennis Kaufmann (Bloomington, IL). Thanks to all who braved the storm to come to worship and fellowship with us. The electricity was off during most of the reception but it was a joyful setting to have so many candles flickering! Just like in our own lives, if all of us together let our lights shine, we can help to enlighten those round about us. "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear" (Psalm 27:1)

Bro. Fred (Sis. Tina) Christ was hospitalized recently for surgery. God has blessed him with healing and he is at home slowly getting better.

*Note of Thanks:*

We express our heartfelt thanks for all your love, prayers, food, generous donations and many deeds of kindness shown to us during John's illness and since his passing. May God richly bless you.

*The family of Bro. John Elsasser*

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**ILLINOIS, ROANOKE**

**Jenell Hodel  
Joan Leman**

"...God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him."

*I John 4:16*

We rejoice with Adam Knepp (Bro. Rich and Sis. Janet) and Jackie Anderson (Kirk and Stephanie) as they were united in marriage on January 10. We pray God's richest blessings be upon them as they walk hand in hand through this life.

We also rejoice with Bro. Todd Hinrichsen, currently of Phoenix, AZ (Bro. Mark and Sis. Sue) and Sis. Heather Labudde (Bro. Larry and Sis. Kathie Labudde) of Phoenix as they have felt God's direction to become one in the Lord. We pray God's blessings be upon them as they prepare for their upcoming marriage.

We are thankful that God is still calling souls to repentance and that Brandon Durand (Tom and Sis. Marsha) has answered that call in his youth. May he ever feel God's love and guidance.

We appreciate and thank our visiting ministers who shared the Word of Life with us this past month. They were Elder Bro. Mike Leman (Denver), Elder Bro. Tom Klotzle (Altadena), Bro. Jon Zeller

(Morton) and Bro. Bob Pflederer (Morton) who spoke at our monthly Bible Study on the topic of Memorizing Scripture. May God richly bless these brothers and their families for their willingness to labor on our behalf.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Doris Aeschleman and Bro. Jack Sauder (Sis. Marlis) as they have been hospitalized this past month. May they each feel God's strength and healing touch.

Many in the central Illinois area will remember Roy Kennell who passed away on January 4, 2004. Roy, along with his wife, Julia, started the Christian Aid Ministry (CAM) clothing distribution center in Roanoke. They were tying bales of clothes by hand until three young brothers drove to Canada to obtain a used baler from another CAM center. Brothers and Sisters from the surrounding churches worked at CAM, each church serving one night a month with Roy and Julia always there to assist. About a year ago, Roy and Julia decided to turn the project over to the Apostolic Church World Relief distribution center in Goodfield.

*Note of Thanks:*

I want to thank everyone for the beautiful cards and gifts I received for my 85th birthday. Also the gifts and cards I received at Christmas. God bless you all.

*Sis. Doris Bowald*

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**ILLINOIS, TREMONT**

**Heather Rassi  
LaVonne Wagenbach**

By faith and grace, two more souls have been added to the family of God. With rejoicing we greeted Bro. Simon III and Sis. Lori

Wagenbach after hearing their testimonies and witnessing their baptisms.

We were thankful to have Elder Bro. Marvin Leman (Bradford, IL) to assist with the testimonies and baptisms. Additional ministering brothers visiting this month included Bro. Dewayne Dill (Minneapolis, MN), Bro. Ken Dietz (Bradford, IL), Bro. Dennis Rassi (Fairbury, IL), Bro. James Kaeb (Bern, KS), Bro. Ed Fritz (Washington, IL), Bro. John Steiner (Oakville, IA) and Bro. Vernon Wettstein (Congerville, IL).

There were several engagements announced in our congregation this month. Bro. Kevin Sauder (Bro. Marvin and Sis. MaryAnn) is engaged to Sis. Jody Kaeb of Bern, KS (Bro. James and Sis. Diane). Bro. Galen Rocke (Sis. Kathy) is engaged to Sis. Betty Mogler (Bro. Art and Sis. Eula, West Bend, IA). Bro. Kerry Baer is engaged to Sis. Kelly Koch. Their parents are Ray Baer of Morton, IL, and Sis. Janna Baer of Bradford, IL, and Bro. Dave T. and Sis. June Koch.

Bro. Darel and Sis. Mary Alyce Hofsess's daughter, Julie, was recently married to Jacob Ifta. His parents are Steven and Linda Ifta of Brimfield, IL. We wish them God's blessings in their marriage.

Our Sis. Doris Hutchison was laid to rest. May God grant comfort to her two brothers, Clair (and Patricia) Hutchison of Jacksonville and Jack (and Alta) Hutchison of LaHarpe; and her sister, Sis. Beverly Staker.

On December 16, Bro. Mike and Sis. Ivy Steiner were blessed with a little boy, Courage Daniel. His siblings are Mahlon, Joseph, Daniel, Hannah, and Titus. Bro. Joe and

Sis. Marcella Steiner and Bro. John and Sis. Ingrid Buster (Burlington, IA) are his grandparents. Dirk and Erika Koch are thankful parents of their fourth child, Sarah Ann. She was welcomed home by her siblings, Tabitha, Melinda and Christopher. Her grandparents are Clinton and Nola Koch and Andreas and Margit Molnar of Baja, Hungary.

Hospitalized this month were Sis. Ann Steiner (Bro. Richard) as well as Bro. Daniel and Sis. Jeanne Wagenbach's little boy, Connor. We wish them God's healing.

We welcome back Bro. Marvin and Sis. Mary Ann Sauder who spent six weeks in Haiti coordinating in the MEBSH construction department as well as assisting with the care and direction of Apostolic World Relief work teams. We're thankful for their willingness to offer their time and pray God's blessings on their efforts.

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## ILLINOIS, WASHINGTON

**Dianne Wyss  
Marcia Koch**

As we embarked upon a new year, we appreciated the exhortations from Bro. Randy Mogler as he meditated on the life of King Jehoshaphat and reminded us that we should "Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God's." (II Chron. 20:15)

This month we were also blessed by the ministry of Bros. Jim Meiss (Sis. Candy, Phoenix, AZ), Doug Wagenbach (Sis. Lillian, San Diego, CA), Randy Kellenberger (Sis. Karen, Kansas City, MO) and Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Bern, KS).

Seeking out the Lord's will, Sis.

Tara Baker (Joe and Sis. Karen) and Bro. David Prather (Bro. Bob and Sis. Marlene) announced their wedding engagement. Also announcing their engagement was Sis. Martha Strahm (Bro. Wilfred and Sis. Verona, Bern, KS) and Bro. Grant Hangartner (Bro. Mark and Sis. Karen). We wish them both the Lord's nearness.

We also wish the Lord's blessings on Jennifer Kellenberger (Bro. Ron and Sis. Carole) and Benjamin Gaonzales (Rafael and Maria) as they begin their married life together.

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## INDIANA, BLUFFTON

**Elizabeth Frauhiger  
Tiffany Aschliman**

We rejoice this month with two converts who have been announced for peace and ready for baptism. Our thoughts and prayers are with Tony Raber (Bro. Bruce and Sis. Mary) and Brady Ripple as they await their testimony and baptism.

Many of our loved ones have recently spent some time in the hospital. We pray for God's healing hand on: Bro. Leonard and Sis. Lucille Grandlienard, Sis. Millie Schladenhauffen (Bro. Paul), Bro. Steve Reinhard (Sis. Renee), Sis. Clara Gerber (Bro. Wilmer), Bro. Kenny Gilliom (Sis. Marie), Sis. Doris Frauhiger, Sis. Ida Aschliman, and Bob Isch (Jane).

Our prayers are with several of our families in Bluffton as they have experienced the loss of loved ones recently. Bro. Gary Merritt (Sis. Sharon) bade farewell to his mother, Ethel Merritt. Sis. Justine Baumgartner's sister, Marjorie Vagi, passed away. Bro. Dennis Caffee (Sis. Becky) lost his father to death, as well. We pray that God

will reach His comforting hand upon these dear families.

Also leaving this life for eternal bliss this month was Bro. Dale Reinhard (Sis. Martha, Bluffton North). We are prayerful for his sister, Betty Macklin (Carl), and brothers, Bro. Ezra, Bro. James (Ruth), and Bro. Ken (Sis. Ann). We will continue to lift them up in prayer.

We thank Bro. Dennis Rassi (Sis. Diane, Fairbury, IL) for sharing the Word with us this month. We are so thankful for his willingness.

"But now, O Lord, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand."

*Isaiah 64:8*

We rejoice with three families who have welcomed new little ones into their arms. December 28 was the big day for Bro. Tom and Sis. Brenda Bertsch as they welcomed Cameron Thomas. Cameron is welcomed home by Jessica, Holly and Alyssa. His thankful grandparents are Bro. Walter and Sis. Lillian Bertsch and Bro. Stan and Sis. Genny Isch.

Quinn Alan Frauhiger is the newest grandson of Bro. Alan and Sis. Cheryl Ringger. Quinn's parents are Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Sally Frauhiger (Bluffton North). Also welcoming Quinn on December 29 are Livia, Kaitlyn and Breann, and his grandparents, Bro. Steve and Sis. Irene Frauhiger (Bluffton North).

Bro. Matt and Sis. Julie Lehman added another little one to their family on December 31. Little Lexi Kay is welcomed home by Landon, Lauren, Logan and Lyndsi. Her

thankful grandparents are Bro. Rick and Sis. Cathy Stucky.

We rejoice with Bro. Aaron Isch (Bro. Barry and Sis. Imogene) and Sis. Rachel Fiechter (Bro. Rick and Sis. Beth) as they have announced their engagement. Bro. Bryan Meyer (Bro. Harold and Sis. Violet) and Sis. Kim Kaehr (Bro. Lyle and Sis. Connie) have set a March wedding date. Our prayers are with these couples as they begin this new journey.

January 18 was a special day for Bro. Brian Steffen (Bro. Allen and Sis. Arlene) and Sis. Jessie Steffen (Bro. Duane and Sis. Karen) as they were united as husband and wife. We ask that God will richly bless this union.

Finally, we are prayerful for Bro. Joe and Sis. Denise Maller as they have left the Bluffton area for some language training in Costa Rica. We pray that God will be with them as they follow His will in their missionary journey.

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**INDIANA  
BLUFFTON NORTH  
Darren Drayer  
Tiffani Schladenhauffen**

My heav'nly home is bright and fair,  
Nor pain nor death can enter there:  
Its glitt'ring tow'rs the sun out-shine;  
That heav'nly mansion shall be mine.

*Hymns of Zion #247*

Our Bro. Dale Reinhard went Home to claim his heavenly mansion on December 23. We pray for comfort for his dear wife, Sis. Martha. Bro. Dale is survived by four

sisters, Sis. Dula Pulver, Sis Edna (Bro. William Gene) Moser, Betty (Carl) Macklin, and Mildred Madiac; and four brothers, Bro. Ezra (Bluffton, IN), Bro. James (Ruth-Bluffton, IN), Bro. Ken (Sis. Ann - Bluffton, IN), and Bro. Dan (Sis. Delores - Croghan-Naumburg, NY). He will be greatly missed, but he is now rejoicing in a place where there is no illness or pain.

We were thankful this month to have several visiting ministers share with us in God's Word. We pray that each of the following felt welcome and that they will come back again: Bro. Alan Schambach (Sis. Sarah, Remington, IN), Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Sis. Pam, Washington, IL), Bro. Wayne Lehman (South Bend, IN), Bro. Doug Wagenbach (Sis. Lillian, San Diego, CA), and Bro. Allen Stoller (Sis. Susan, Bluffton, IN).

We were blessed to have Bro. Fred Witzig (Indianapolis, IN) share with us his presentation on the early church one Saturday morning at Christian Care. There are always so many opportunities for us to learn more.

We rejoice with Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Sally Frauhiger as they welcome their first son, Quinn Alan, into this world on December 29. He joins three very excited sisters, Livia, Kaitlyn, and Breann. The happy grandparents are Bro. Steve and Sis. Irene Frauhiger and Bro. Alan and Sis. Sheryl Ringger (Bluffton, IN). Also rejoicing are Bro. Jesse and Sis. Janelle Frauhiger as they hold their first bundle of joy, Drew Alan, born January 3. Bro. Steve and Sis. Irene Frauhiger are once again grandparents, but Bro. Keith and Kay

Steffen are first-time grandparents. We pray for the families as they raise two boys in the Lord.

Spending some time in the hospital this month were Bro. Harry (Sis. Clarice) Isch and Sis. Rochelle (Bro. Rod) Gerber. Our prayers are that they will feel the Lord's healing touch. Whatever trials we may face, may we never forget all that the Lord has done for us and will continue to do for us.

"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:"

*Psalms 103:2*

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**INDIANA, FRANCESVILLE  
Barbara Huber**

Greetings of love from Francesville!

Bro. Bob (Sis. Joy) Huber, and daughters, Chloe and Salome, were home for a holiday visit with their parents, Sis. Betty Huber and Bro. Ron and Sis. Dianne Vogt, and families. They are serving at the Casa Elizabeth Orphanage in Imuris, Mexico.

On Sunday, December 21, they spoke to the congregation after the afternoon service and related some of their experiences. They both expressed their appreciation for the loving support and most of all the prayers of the brotherhood and asked that we stay prayerful for them as they seek the Lord's will for their future.

December 30 was the day chosen by the Lord to bring His loved one, our dear beloved Bro. Elmer (Sis. Emilie) Anliker, into His presence. Bro. Elmer was known and loved by all of us and leaves us a legacy of balance and faith. Bro. Elmer is survived by his wife of sixty-plus years, Sis. Emilie (Schini); daughters, Sis.

Charlene (Eldon) Getz and Sis. Shirley (Irvin) Furrer. Their first-born daughter, Sis. Linda (Bro. Bob) Beer, preceded him in death in February, 2003. He is also survived by ten grandchildren and twenty-one great grandchildren. Elder Bro. Wayne Anliker (Sis. Judy) of Forrest lovingly exhorted us at his funeral to so live than we too can leave a legacy of faith to those who follow. Two of the verses keynoted in the funeral service were Luke 21:19, "In your patience possess ye your souls." And "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints." (*Psalms 116:15.*)

He urged everyone present to make sure they knew they had eternal life through the blood of Jesus Christ.

Sadly, Sis. Emilie, Bro. Elmer's widow, has been in ill health since the funeral of Bro. Elmer. Our heartfelt prayers of sympathy and intercession go out for her. We pray she feels the loving arms of our Savior about her for "He is faithful that promised."

Also, spending time in hospitals during this month were Bro. Walter and Sis. Valera Culp. May God's Spirit hover near them with the precious promise found in Romans 8:38-39 which says: "For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." How reassuring it is that all the promises in the Bible are available for every believer.

Our Sis. Amelia Schini has moved into an apartment in

Parkview Haven. Her new address is: Parkview Haven, 101 Constitution, Francesville, IN 47946. Our prayers for her adjustment to this change are heartfelt.

We in Francesville were blessed as we gathered on December 31, 2003, for midweek service and our annual New Year's Eve Program. We were thankful to be able to enjoy the ministry of our Bro. Jim Meiss (Sis. Candy, Phoenix, AZ) and our Bro. Nathan Lehman (Sis. Yvonne, Denver, CO). We are so thankful that the holidays bring our loved ones into our midst for sharing and fellowship.

The many readings and songs shared in the program were so inspirational and thoughtful and gave all present a sobering look into the event of one year's passing into the next. The evident theme, which was so beautifully brought together by our committee, was that we should live in and for Jesus Christ. Also, that we should seek opportunities to be His living witness to all those we come in contact with. Once again it was a blessed way in which to begin our New Year.

In Jesus' name our prayer we  
raise,  
Whose guiding hand has blessed  
our days;  
And may we, Lord, in godly fear  
Serve Thee throughout this coming  
year.  
- Anon.

Bro. Harvey and Sis. Ellen Gutwein have realized happy events in their family. Their daughter, Heather, was recently married to Kevin Cox. They are now residing in Francesville. We extend our congratulations and wish them God's richest blessings in their

married life. Also, bringing great joy to their family was the arrival of their

granddaughter, Kelsey Brianne, on December 12. Kelsey is the first-born child of their son and daughter-in-law, Lance and Erica Gutwein. "Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord." (Psalm 127:3). We pray God's richest blessings on all the family.

Ministering Bro. Chris and Sis. Sharon Huber were thankful for the arrival of a precious grandson, Blayden Christian Huber. Blayden was born on January 5 to Chris Jr. and Becky Huber and is welcomed home by big sister, Macie. It is a thrill to witness a new life so lovingly received into a family circle. May God bless you all!

Our congregation had the blessed privilege of testimonies and baptismal services for Phillip and Christen Huber (Bro. Brian and Sis. Jacki). Elder Bro. Ron Messner (Sis. Pam) of the Washington, IL, congregation was here to assist our Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein. Also present to serve in the ministry on Sunday was their uncle, Bro. Jeff (Sis. Ruth) Grimm of the Goodfield congregation. Thank you, dear Brothers, for your service of love to all of us! It was a great blessing to greet our new Brother and Sister in the Lord and feel the strength and renewal they bring to our brotherhood. May God grant them and all of us grace to "...press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 3:14). May we all be impressed with the beauty of a fellowship in which to grow and share. May we ever be thankful that the Word of Truth is the measure exhorted upon by our ministers.

We extend our congratulations and best wishes to our friend, Jerod Leman, son of Bro. Larry and Sis. Pam Leman, as he has been engaged and plans to be married in May. His fiancé is Mary Hunter and is the daughter of John and Josephine Hunter of California. May God be your Guide as you take this important step in life.

After serious illness and hospitalization, our dear Bro. Virgil Von Tobel went Home to be with the Lord on Sunday, January 18. His dear wife, Sis. Viola, just passed away in December and Bro. Virgil has been ill since then. We extend our sincere sympathies to the dear family he leaves behind as they once again plan a funeral.

Although the curtain has closed on the lives of this dear couple, we pray that the family feels the comfort of God and that they endeavor to continue the legacy of faith to future generations. May we all apply the truth and opportunity of Psalm 90:12, which reads:

“So teach us to number our days,  
that we may apply our hearts unto  
wisdom.”

Lord, help us to redeem the time  
You give us every day –  
To take each opportunity  
To follow and obey.

Don't just count your days, make  
your days count!

As February is the month for the celebration of the worldly Valentine's Day, let us as believers so live that the world around us can see the genuine love that is found only in surrender to God through His Son, Jesus Christ. The love that is full of the fruit of the Spirit which are

“...love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”

*Galatians 5:22-23.*

*Note of Thanks:*

So many of you have reached out to me in love during this Christmas Season with gifts, food, kind deeds and loving thoughts and I wish to express my sincere thankfulness for each and every kindness. I am humbled to be so warmly remembered.

*Sincerely,*

*Sis. Minerva Wuethrich*

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**INDIANA  
INDIANAPOLIS  
Gail Bradford  
Sandy Lichtle**

We welcome Sis. Bethany Maller from Bluffton, IN, to our congregation. She is currently employed here in Indy.

Congratulations to Bro. Makoto Inoue (Elder Bro. Akito and Sis. Marie, Tokyo, Japan) on graduating from college with a degree in electrical engineering. He has accepted a job in Peoria, IL, and we will miss him as he moves to Illinois.

“Blessed are they that mourn:  
for they shall be comforted.”

*Matthew 5:4*

We extend our heartfelt prayers and sympathy to Bro. Sam and Laura Holliger on the passing of Bro. Sam's sister, Sis. Margaret Joos (Morton, IL). May they feel the comfort of the Lord upon them at this time.

Also, our love, thoughts and

prayers are with Sis. Edye Mayer on the passing of her sister, Sis. Ann Farney (Wichita, KS). May the Lord uplift and strengthen Sis. Edye and her family during this time of sorrow.

We are thankful for our visiting ministers this month: Bros. Jon Zeller (Sis. Christine, Morton, IL) and Carroll Gerber (Sis. Louise, Bluffton North, IN). We appreciate their willingness to be used in the Lord's service.

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**INDIANA, LACROSSE  
Eric and Bobbi Ann Heinold**

Another year is dawning,  
Dear Master, let it be,  
In working or in waiting,  
Another year with Thee.

*Hymns of Zion #150*

We pray that all may feel God's presence and direction in this coming year.

We had several visiting ministers this past month. Our thanks go out to Bro. Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto), Bro. Ken Weertz (Sis. Myrna, Cissna Park, IL), Bro. Dan Stoller (Sis. Deb, Remington) and Bro. Jim Butikofer (Sis. Diana, Iowa City). May God bless each one for being willing to share God's Word with us.

Bro. Gene and Sis. Evie Heinold have a new grandson. Garrett Isaac was born to Bro. Jim and Sis. Diana Butikofer (Iowa City) on December 5, 2003. He was welcomed home by big sister, Kyla.

We are thankful Sis. Lorene Moser has returned home from the hospital. Also, we are grateful that Sis. Shirley Frank is recovering from recent surgery and is doing well. May God's healing powers

speed each of their recoveries.

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**INDIANA, LEO  
Ethelyn Schlatter  
Carol Schrock**

On Christmas Day, Bro. Ron Bollier and family (Indianapolis, IN) and Bro. Randy Gasser and family (Detroit, MI) visited us. Bro. Ron had the main service and Bro. Randy concluded the service. Some thoughts expressed, "Why did Jesus come?" To fulfill prophecy – Matt. 1:22-23; Isa. 7:14; Matt. 2:5-6, "To preach good tidings ... bind up the broken hearted ... proclaim liberty ... to comfort all that mourn ... give beauty for ashes." (Isa. 61:1-3)

Bro. Gene Stoller passed away December 27, 2003. Services were at Latty, OH, on December 30. Surviving are his six sons, Keith, Roger, Wade, Bro. Linn, Terry and Larry; two daughters, Lucette (Dietrich) and Rose; two brothers, Bro. Glen and Victor; 21 grandchildren and 11 great - grandchildren. Sympathy is extended to his family.

On December 28, Bro. Byron Stoller (Sis. Carol, Gridley, IL) was here. We thank Bro. Byron for his service.

After our New Year's Eve service, the engagement of our Sis. Jill Gramm to Bro. Adam Merkle from the Washington, DC congregation was announced. May God bless as they prepare to become one in Christ Jesus.

On January 4, Bro. Steve Ringger (Sis. Myra, Bluffton North, IN) came and spent the day with us. He read Eph. 4 and there in verse 15 we were all reminded to be willing to be used to speak the truth in love. Verse 16 goes on to express how to be a healthy functioning effective

body for Christ. May love be our motivator in all that we do and say.

We welcome Sis. Christa Kaeb (Bro. Dave and Sis. Brenda, Bloomington, IL) to our church family. She has begun her role as Assistant Houseparent at Gateway Woods. We also extend a welcome to Sis. Jody Kaeb (Bro. Jim and Sis. Diane, Bern, KS). She will be teaching at the Gateway School until summer. May God's grace and love enable them to be effective in their roles.

We were also glad to welcome home Arlo and Lisa Kipfer. They were back from China for the holidays and we were thankful to share a small amount of time together to encourage one another and build each other up.

Saturday evening, January 17, Elder Bro. Alfred Bahler (Sis. Frances, Wolcott, IN) assisted our Elder Bro. Lynn Stieglitz with the reading of the Memorandum. May God bless our Elder brothers with wisdom as they seek to serve us.

"Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen."

*Eph. 3:20-21*

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**INDIANA, MILFORD  
Carlton Beer  
Paula Haab**

On December 29, we appreciated Bro. Earl Beery (Sis. Susie, Rittman, OH) being willing to share the pulpit with our home ministers who labor for us Sunday after Sunday. It is always good to be together as a church family on New

Year's Eve to praise and thank God for keeping us through the past year and entreat Him to bless us in the new year.

Bro. Rob Schlipf has completed his Master's degree and has taken employment in the area. It is so good to have him back home assembling with us.

On January 2, Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Heidi Price welcomed Brittany Renee. Big brother, Trevor, as well as grandparents, Bro. John and Sis. Pam Lehman and Bro. Phil and Sis. Janie Price, are ready to help with the new baby.

After six years of being in a wheelchair cared for by her faithful husband, Everett, Sis. Leona Rassi Price was able to go to her heavenly home. In addition to her husband, she's survived by a daughter, Sis. Ann (Bro. Bill) Troup, and a son, Bro. Tom (Becky) Price, of our congregation. Also a son, Ron, resides in Florida, and a sister, Sis. Irene Schrock, lives in Congerville. We extend our sympathy to all of them, especially her husband, Everett, who will be 90 on January 25.

We also offer sympathy to Bro. Bob Beer and his family as they suffered the loss of a father-in-law and grandpa, Bro. Elmer Anliker (Francesville).

Sis. Maydean Lehman spent a few days in the hospital and still doesn't feel well enough to come to church. While trying to help a co-worker, Bernie (Peg) Beer slipped on the ice needing emergency care. Thanks be to God that he has healed. We also are thankful that God gave healing and strength to Bro. Nelson Beer (Sis. Shelby) after outpatient surgery so that he didn't miss a church service.

Our annual business meeting



was held on January 8 with our Elder Bro. Bill Schlatter conducting the meeting. We thank those completing their terms of service and ask God to continue to bless them. Those accepting new positions and needing our prayers so that they can do God's will are: Treasurer – Bro. Al Wuthrich; Trustee – Bro. Stan Wuthrich; Silver Lining – Bro. Carlton Beer; World Relief Sewing – Sis. Sandy Beer; World Relief Rep – Bro. Walt Steffen; Speaker System – Bro. Marc Beer; Food Committee – Sis. Pam Lehman; Sunday School teachers – Sis. Tricia Wuthrich, Bros. Lee, Brent and Jeff Beer.

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**INDIANA, REMINGTON**  
**Rochelle Ward**  
**Beth Virkler**

We extend our sympathy to Sis. Charlene Getz (Bro. Eldon) whose father, Bro. Elmer Anliker (Francesville, IN), passed away in December. He was the last of his large family to exit this life into eternity. It's a sobering thought for those of us, to whom the baton has been handed, to live out the Biblical faith that was exemplified in his life before us.

Three loved ones from our congregation have been in the hospital recently: Bro. Phil Isabell, Bro. Edwin Bahler and Essie Nussbaum are recuperating from back, hip and knee surgery, respectively.

Our annual business meeting was held on January 6 with the following results: Sunday School teachers: Bros. Dana Nieman, Bruce Waibel and Sis. Tereasa Fry; Trustees: Bro. Tim Bahler and Brian Schneider; Hospitality Committee: Sis. Cheri Frantz; World Relief Sewing: Sis. Arleta Waibel;

Parkview Haven: Bro. Eldon Getz; Ushers: Bros. Andy Zickmund and Fred Wahl.

Bro. Ed Fritz (Washington, IL) visited us with a heart-challenging message on January 18.

This year marks the hundredth year of the Remington congregation. Later this year, we are planning an anniversary commemoration but, currently, we are looking for "memories" provided by anyone who grew up in our area to add to our history album. We encourage anyone who has a story to share to spend a few moments composing your thoughts and send to: Jayne Price, 610 N. Main Street, Remington, IN 47977. E-mail: jsp5270@hotmail.com.

Please send us your memories by April 1.

*Note of Thanks:*

Words cannot express our appreciation and gratitude to our dear beloved family and the loved ones of the church during the past year. We especially appreciate each prayer, the encouraging cards, the special gifts and your personal visits to help us through this time in our life. May God richly bless each one of you.

*Bro. Ken and Sis. Loretta Schneider*

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**INDIANA, SOUTH BEND**  
**Melisa Gerst**  
**Stacey Feller**

Bro. Barry and Sis. Myra Beer worshipped with us a short time after their summer wedding, but were led to relocate to Indianapolis. We will miss them here, but wish them God's nearness and blessings as they settle into their new surroundings.

Two couples from our congregation traveled at the end of 2003 to do the work of the Lord overseas. Bro. Bob and Sis. Sue Beebe were in Haiti, and Bro. Marty and Sis. Lavilla Langhofer were in Romania. On New Year's Eve, many from our congregation gathered together after services and enjoyed a slide presentation about the work being done in Romania.

We thank the Sunday School teachers, students, and all who participated in our Christmas program.

Our theme was the three wise men, and we were also prompted to think about three wise women of the Christmas story being Mary, Elizabeth, and Anna.

We want to thank our visiting ministers and their families this month which included Bros. Wayne Leman (Roanoke, IL) and Joe Gerst (Iowa City, IA), Elder Bros. Curt Frank (Lacrosse, IN), Bill Schlatter (Junction, OH) and Aaron Steffen (Alto, MI). These Elder brothers shared the Memorandum with us.

We recently held our annual business meeting and the following positions were filled:

Trustee – Bro. Tim Gerst; Ushers – Bros. Ben Flis, Man Huynh, and Otto Schlatter; Food Committee – Sis. DeAnn Schlatter; Head Song Leader – Bro. Bill Feller; VBS Committee – Bro. Brad and Sis. Becky Langhofer; Silver Lining Reporters – Sis. Melisa Gerst and Stacey Feller.

We appreciate the willing service of these brothers and sisters, as well as those remaining in their past roles.

Our winter schedule for Wednesday evening services is a ro-

tation between meeting in homes and singing at nursing homes. We will be on this schedule for January, February, and March after which we will resume meeting at church alternating with singing at nursing homes. If you plan to join us and need information on our whereabouts, please contact one of our ministers: Bro. Bob Beebe (574-291-2158), Bro. Wayne Lehman (574-773-4373), or Bro. Scott Schafer (574-773-2514).

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**INDIANA, VALPARAISO**  
**Edward Lester**

“Blessed is the people that know the joyful sound: they shall walk, O Lord, in the light of thy countenance. In thy name shall they rejoice all the day: in thy righteousness shall they be exalted.”

*Psalm 89:15-16*

Greetings of Love from everyone in Valparaiso. We want to thank everyone who sent cards and prayers for Bro. Brady Moser. He is finally through with his battle and tests show he is able to resume his life. Joyce Ames (Bro. Tim Ames) has been hospitalized and continued prayers are appreciated.

We were privileged to be able to spend some time during the holidays caroling. Thank you to everyone who could make this possible.

We also enjoyed a New Years program put on by the Sunday School children and others.

We at Valparaiso would like to thank Elder Bro. Dan Kilgus (Sis. Jenna, Remington) for sharing the Word and God's love with us.

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**INDIANA**  
**WEST LAFAYETTE**  
**Diana Houston**  
**Nettie Haab**

“And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.”

*Isaiah 35:10*

Our sympathy goes out to Bro. Sam Holliger (Laura) and Bro. Mike Holliger as they mourn the death of Sam's sister, Sis. Margaret Joos (Morton, IL).

Our dear friend, Carlos Soto, will be leaving for San Diego soon. We wish him well and God's blessings. May we all continue to pray for him also as he continues his walk with the Lord and looks forward to baptism.

The Imuris work team has returned and all say what a blessing they received while working and getting to know the kids there at the orphanage. We thank the Lord they had safe travels there and back home.

Our college graduates this semester are: Bro. Luke Schafer, Bro. Makoto Inoue, Sis. Andria Gudeman, Bro. Josh Overmyer, Bro. Aaron Kilgus, Bro. Clint Bahler, and Bro. Michael Anliker.

Visiting ministers have been Elder Bro. Steve Gutwein (Sis. Linda, Francesville, IN) and Bro. Alan Schambach (Sis. Sarah, Remington, IN).

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**INDIANA, WOLCOTT**  
**Lisa Furrer**  
**Heidi Bahler**

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: “Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.” And he replied: “Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.”

—*M. Louise Haskins*

We trust Bro. Irv and Sis. Shirley Furrer can feel comforted that her father, Bro. Elmer Anliker (Sis. Emily, Francesville, IN) made the Lord his choice in this life. He passed away December 30, and our sympathy goes out to the family, including grandchildren, Bro. Dale and Sis. Missy Banwart, Bro. Michael and Sis. Erica Wagenbach, Kristie and Kim Furrer.

Bro. Lowell Bahler (Sis. Karla) submitted to neck surgery early in January. Thankfully he has felt the healing and experienced relief, evidence of our Father's care!

The church annual business meeting resulted in responsibilities being transferred from one to another. Some find themselves with new challenges for the first time, and we pray they will all feel supported. Sincere thanks to each one who has given their time and efforts in the past, whether it be in the physical or financial care of our building, making decisions for our elderly at Parkview Haven, ministering to the Sunday School students, or serving our loved ones in any way.

Sunday, January 11, was filled to overflowing when a busload from Gridley, IL, came to join our congrega-

gation for a day of fellowship and singing. It was an added blessing to have three visiting ministers. Thank you, Bros. Stephen Baner (Sis. Donnalou), Clark Stoller (Sis. Cindy) and David Zehr (Sis. Vicki)!

The months of January and February are when our World Relief sewing and soap-making peaks for the year, and any would be welcome to join in, laboring for those in need.

Our community was deeply touched after hearing of a fallen soldier (serving in Iraq) who had attended school with some of our church students at the local high school. It sobers us to ponder if we'd be ready to meet our Maker so soon. And we are freshly reminded to earnestly pray for all the troops (and their families!) serving our land of America. May God watch over each one!

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**IOWA, ELGIN**  
**Gloria Frieden**  
**Heidi Butikofer**

One by one their seats were emptied,

One by one they went away,  
Now the family is parted,  
Will it be complete one day?

*Hymns of Zion #222*

Sis. Ruth Schupbach passed from this life on January 2. She found much joy in doing things for others and will be missed by her many nieces and nephews and her entire church family.

Visiting ministers this past month have been Bro. Virgil Metzger (Sis. Mary, Chicago) and Bro. Jim Butikofer (Sis. Diana, Iowa City). May God continue to provide and bless our ministers of the Gospel as they stand, in faith, to

preach the Word as the Spirit directs them rather than from sermons prepared in advance. Our best wishes are extended to Mike Starkweather (Dan and Kelly, Willseyville, NY) and Beth Frieden (Bro. Floyd and Sis. Jan) as they make plans for their August wedding. May they feel God's direction in this second most important step in their lives.

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**IOWA, GARDEN GROVE**  
**Willa Clark**

"I am the way, the truth and the life; no man cometh unto the Father but by me." Bro. Gene Metzger (Lester, IA) reminded us the only way to life eternal is through Jesus, the Way, following God's Word, the Truth. Only through Him can we find life. We are thankful to Bro. Gene and also to our Elder Bro. Doug Schock of Pulaski for visiting and sharing God's Word with us.

We have been reminded of the quickness in which death can overtake us, as we share in the sorrow of the family of Sis. Karoline Wuthrich of Pulaski, who was working in her home, and just a few moments later, was gone to be with her Father in Heaven. Even as we share with her family in their sorrow, we can all rejoice in knowing her eternal home is with God, and if we choose to serve Him, we will see her again.

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**IOWA, IOWA CITY**  
**Diana Butikofer**

I read an article recently about rejoicing and I realized that I don't do very well at rejoicing. Luke 10:20 says, "rejoice, because your names are written in heaven." In Philippians 4:4 Paul says, "Rejoice

in the Lord alway; and again I say, Rejoice," and in I Thessalonians 5:16, "Rejoice evermore." Such a simple command, but often hard to follow without diligent effort and reminders. Perhaps this was part of the inspiration for yet another reminder, verse 5:25.

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**IOWA, LESTER**  
**Dawn Knobloch**  
**Dawn Metzger**

The evening of December 21 was a blessed one as we listened to our Sunday School children tell us the Christmas story. May God bless all of the students and also the teachers for the effort put forth.

We were blessed to have visiting ministers among our guests here during the holiday season. We thank these brothers and wish them God's continued grace. Here with us were Elder Bro. Doug Schock (Pulaski, IA), Elder Bro. Jon Schmidgall (Oakville, IA), Bro. Kent Mogler (Minneapolis, MN), Bro. Roy Koehl (Morris, MN), Bro. Randy Mogler (Washington, IL), and Bro. Larry Bahr (Fort Scott, KS)

We rejoice when we hear of a soul finding peace with God and with man and such is the case with Jessica Moser. May God's direction and grace continue to be with her as she awaits baptism. She is the daughter of Bro. Wes and Sis. Esther Moser.

Sis. Karoline Doorneweerd passed away on December 30. She is survived by her children, Sis. Lois and Bro. Ellsworth Niemeyer (Phoenix, AZ), Sis. Linda and Bro. Verlyn Kellenberger, Bro. Butch Doorneweerd and LaVonne and Jim Anliker (Phoenix, AZ) and their families. Those also mourn-

ing her loss in our congregation are Bro. William and Sis. Leona Wulf, Bro. Jacob and Sis. Alice Wulf, Bro. Lawrence Wulf, Sis. Amelia Roeman and Leah and Dick Doorneweerd.

We extend our sympathy to Bro. Elmer and Sis. Mariann Metzger, Bro. Eli and Sis. Alice Metzger, Bro. Andy and Sis. Freida Mogler, Sis. Emma Meyer, Sis. Donna Metzger and Sis. Esty Metzger on the death of their sister, Sis. Karoline Wuthrich (Pulaski, IA).

“What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.”

*Mark 10:9*

On January 4, we witnessed the wedding vows of Bro. Micah Gherian and Sis. Marcy Van Wyhe. Parents of the couple are Bro. Paul and Sis. Sharon Gherian (Junction, OH) and Bro. Pete and Sis. Susan Van Wyhe. Ministers here for this special occasion were Bro. Paul Messner (Winthrop, MN), Bro. Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN), Bro. Sam Schlatter (Junction, OH), Bro. Pat Zaugg (West Bend, IA) and Bro. Roger Aberle (Sabetha, KS).

Our prayers are with our loved ones who were hospitalized recently. Surgical patients were Michael Leuthold (Bro. Bob and Sis. Cindy), Bro. Jacob Wulf (Sis. Alice) and Sis. Elaine Kellenberger. Hospitalized for medical reasons were Bro. William Wulf (Sis. Leona) and Brendon Leuthold (Bro. Brad and Sis. Michelle).

Two baby girls were welcomed into their family circles this past month. On January 2, Samantha Lynn was born to Stuart and Karen Moser. Jim Moser is her grandpa

and Sis. Donna Metzger is her great-grandmother. Bro. Matt and Sis. Hana Hartter were blessed with the arrival of Marissa Ann on January 14. Dustin is now a big brother. Also welcoming her are grandparents, Tedd and Sis. Diane Larson and Bro. Jerome and Sis. Gail Hartter, along with great-grandmothers Sis. Zelma Knoblock and Sis. Esty Metzger.

Congratulations to Trela Knoblock and Jason Knueven on their engagement. Wishing them God's blessings and direction as they make their future plans. Trela is the daughter of Bro. Roger and Sis. Janet Knoblock.

Throughout the year of 2003, our congregation experienced twenty births, two baptisms and four deaths. “The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his way.” Psalm 37:23

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### IOWA, OAKVILLE Rosalie Wiegand Sharla Wiegand

We want to thank Bro. Gary Endress (Bradford, IL) for ministering the Word to our congregation this month.

Our annual business meeting was held and new committee members were elected. May God provide them the grace to carry out their new duties. Church Trustee – Bro. Rick Vierling; Fellowship Center Trustee – Bro. Brent Frank; Cemetery Committee – Bro. Rob Steiner; Usher – Bro. Colin Wagenbach; Kitchen Committee – Sis. Mary Lanz and Sis. Barb Wagenbach; World Relief – Sis. Tina Frank.

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### IOWA, PULASKI Katrina Knobloch

Bros. John Steiner (Sis. Carol, Oakville, IA), Brad Gudeman (Sis. Teresa, Bradford, IL), Tom Schambach (Elgin, IL) and Ed Sauder (Sis. Bonnie, Roanoke, IL) shared God's Word with us. We thank them and pray that God's Spirit will continue to be with them.

Our congregation is rejoicing with two young couples who recently have announced their engagements. Stacy Wuthrich (Bro. Roger and Sis. DeAnn) and Andy Joos (Bro. Ron and Sis. Christy) are planning a July wedding. Looking forward to being united in the Lord on April 11 are Sis. Kristin Wuthrich (Bro. Kenny and Sis. Lora) and Bro. Phil Wettstein (Bro. Jake and Sis. Mary) of Eureka, IL.

Along with joy comes great sorrow as a faithful sister in the Lord has passed on to her Heavenly reward. Sis. Karoline Wuthrich went to be with her Lord on January 16. Our thoughts and prayers are with her husband, Bro. Russell; her sons, Bro. Roger (Sis. DeAnn) and Bro. Kenny (Sis. Lora), her 7 grandchildren, and her many brothers and sisters and nieces and nephews. She will be missed by our small congregation. A special thanks to Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha, KS) for coming and conducting her funeral service.

Please don't mourn my leaving here,

Do not cry that I have gone.  
Life on earth is but the night,  
Death the beauty of the dawn.  
If your love is great enough,  
That you're sad to have me go;  
Know that I am happier gone,  
And be glad to have it so.  
Life is but a struggle made,

All our heart and soul we spend.  
 For the peace that comes with  
 death,  
 To reach our heavenly end.  
 For when God called me,  
 And said my heavenly home was  
 ready on high.  
 I felt a great peace in my heart,  
 Though I had no time to say good-  
 bye.  
 My thoughts and prayers are on  
 earth no more,  
 Now that I have left this land.  
 I'll be waiting for you,  
 While walking with Jesus hand in  
 hand.

—*The last half of this poem was  
 written by Sis. Karoline's  
 grandchildren.*

## IOWA, WEST BEND

Betty Wirtz

Lori Skoglund

Among the many visitors we have enjoyed during the past months have been ministering brothers who faithfully brought us the Word: Elder Bro. Curt Frank (Sis. Lyla, LaCrosse, IN) and Bro. Dale Moore (Sis. Cheryl, Elgin, IA). May God continue to bless them.

The engagement of Bro. Carl Gerber (Bro. Dave and Sis. Diane) to Sis. Sara Massner (Bro. Dennis and Sis. Gail) was announced. We wish them God's blessings as they prepare for their marriage.

We rejoice with our converts who have found peace with their Lord. Archie Banwart is anticipating baptism scheduled to take place on his 80th birthday in January. Eli Gerber looks forward to baptism in February. How thankful we are that even in their later years, they have found that peace which passeth all understanding.

*I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*

I heard the voice of Jesus say  
 Come unto Me and rest  
 Lay down thou weary one,  
 Lay down thy head upon My  
 breast.

I came to Jesus as I was,  
 weary worn and sad.  
 I found Him in a resting place,  
 And He has made me glad.  
 I heard the voice of Jesus say,  
 Behold I freely give  
 The living water, thirsty one,  
 Stoop down and drink and live.  
 I came to Jesus and I drank  
 of that life-giving stream  
 My thirst was quenched, my soul  
 revived

And now I live in Him.  
 I heard the voice of Jesus say  
 I am this dark world's light  
 Look unto Me, thy morn shall rise,  
 And all thy day be bright.  
 I looked to Jesus, and I found  
 in Him my Star, my Sun;  
 And in that light of life I'll walk,  
 Till all my journey's done.

—*author unknown*

We offer our sympathy to Sis. Clara Anliker (late Elder Bro. Sam) in the loss of her brother-in-law, Bro. Elmer Anliker, from Francesville, IN.

Several have been hospitalized this past month and we pray for them to feel God's nearness through these times as they struggle with various health issues. They are Bro. Ivan Schmidt (Sis. Evelyn), Sis. Joyce Banwart and Bro. Noah Gerber (Sis. Emma). Sis. Ella Schneider has recently returned to her home after convalescing at the Care Center.

As is our custom following New Year's Eve services, Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr shared a few statistics from the year 2003. We had two funerals, ten births (four girls and six boys), five baptisms, and four wed-

dings; i.e. two endings and many beginnings. May God grant grace for the year that lies ahead.

## JAPAN, SHIODA

Eiko Nozawa

Because many of us have to work on Christmas day, we usually have Christmas service on Sunday or on a holiday just before Christmas. It was on December 21 this past year. An easy potluck lunch was planned between the two services. God blessed the plan and it turned out to be a fancy dinner! We were fed well physically, as well as spiritually. Jesus came to be our Saviour, to save us from the eternal loss. Let us remember the sacrifice God paid to achieve this for us sinners. What a love! Truly, "God is love". (I John 4:16)

Fifty years is a long time. But it's not long enough for a happily married couple. On December 28, the family of our Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle and his wife, Sis. Lois, welcomed nearly 100 people, including children, to celebrate their parents' 50th wedding anniversary. Bro. Willis and Sis. Lois were married on November 8, 1953. The next year, on April 17, they arrived in Japan with the Good News in their hands. Without their devotion, many of us in the Lord may not have known the only Living God and His plan of salvation. We can never thank God for them enough. May God richly bless them and reward them. We wish you many more happy anniversaries, Ehnle-san and Lois-san!

The first three days of a new year is a big celebration time in Japan. It's called "Oshogatsu". On January 1 (Wednesday), the first church service for 2004 was held from 10:30 a.m. Most places are closed.

So Mr. Furuya, our friend Mrs. Biren Furuya's husband, could worship God at church along with the rest of his family. His job keeps him busy even on Sundays, so this was really a special time not only for him and his family, but for all of us church family.

New Year, 2004, was started. May this be a peaceful, happy year for all of you.

*Note of Thanks:*

We wish to thank all of you who remembered us with your prayers, beautiful cards, and loving letters, in commemoration of our Golden Wedding anniversary. We had a blessed time together with our brethren and friends, as we reviewed 50 years of marriage.

*Bro. Willis and Sis. Lois Ehnle*

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**JAPAN, TOKYO**  
**Jana Klaus**

Greetings of love once again from Japan. I missed last month's writing.

We had a wonderful Christmas Sunday on December 21. The day started out with the morning service with readings from Genesis 2 and Luke 2, explaining not only the wonders of Jesus' birth, but also clearly the reason why it was necessary. It is our hope and prayer, especially in this land where Christmas is only celebrated with lights, cakes and other types of commercialism, that those who come to church will clearly hear the true meaning and remember and rejoice in it in following years.

Then, after a small lunch, we had our children's Sunday School Program with around 20 children ages 4 to 12 each saying an English alphabet letter with a short English

part and longer Japanese part, collectively telling the story of Jesus, plus several other members and friends had hymns or recitations to present.

After that was our usual big supper with a table full of both Japanese and American dishes. The day was very blessed, but we sure missed our Sis. Marie Inoue, who was in America, as she is usually the main one in charge on these special days.

The saying is true that you just don't realize how much a person does until they are gone and you find yourself in their place! It does pay to make effort to appreciate one another more.

Sis. Marie had a good reason to be in the States, as she was attending her son, Bro. Makoto Inoue's graduation from Purdue University in Indiana. He was a very diligent student over the last 4 plus years, in a language other than his native tongue, and we heartily congratulate him on a job well done! We hear that he has accepted a job in the Peoria, IL, area and are thankful he will have opportunities to meet even more of our church families there. We trust the Lord will lead in His way and time as to when he returns to Japan.

Recent visitors include: Bro. Kan Umemura who was back for winter break, but will continue his studies at ISU in Normal, IL — it is always nice to have another young person around as our single group is quite small. Plus he could take his turn for the afternoon Bible Study, which was a blessing; Our friend, Ben Weber, who has been stopping in the last several years in January on his way back to Yap Island, just straight south of Japan above the

equator, where he is a lawyer — we always appreciate his interesting stories and nice tenor voice; Robert and Jewel (Ehnle) Maeda and their two young sons, who had been staying with their parents/grandparents, Elder Bro. Willis and Sis. Lois Ehnle — Sis. Lois brought them in for a Sunday, which was a blessing; And Bro. Matt Brake (Sardis, OH) who has been back to visit once a year since he interned at a Japanese company here two years ago — we do appreciate that he still remembers us here and even continues to study and pray in Japanese.

Our personal family (the Klauses) said goodbye to our live-in helper for five weeks, Paige Leibe (Lancaster County, Pennsylvania) in mid-December. She was such a blessing, truly wanting to serve the Lord by serving others from her heart. She was not only a great help to our family, but an encouragement to our young Sis. Ikumi Watanabe who does not have many young believers to relate with her. Andrew and I have received permission to use this venue to extend an invitation to any sister in our churches who would feel a desire like this to serve in Japan, whether it be for a few weeks, months or even longer, being our live-in helper (we have seven children, ages 5 months to almost 11 years) and an encouragement to our church, especially to the young people. If you, or anyone you know, should feel led to pursue this and would want more details, please contact us by e-mail at:

jana@klaus.jp or by regular mail at: 425-31 Nagafusa-cho, Hachioji, Tokyo, Japan 193-0824, or by phone/fax at: +81-426-68-4064.

We are 15 hours ahead of CST.

We will continue to lift it up to the Lord in prayer, trusting that He will provide as He always does.

Elder Bro. Akito and Sis. Marie Inoue have recently moved. Their new address is: 3-1009 Fairhills, 80-7 Matsuki, Hachioji, Tokyo, Japan 192-0362. Phone/Fax is +81-426-79-2002. (*Our family is sure happy to have them in our same city.*)

We extend a belated congratulations to Elder Bro. Willis and Sis. Lois Ehnle on their 50th wedding anniversary in November. In late December, all of their children and grandchildren were present for a celebration they put on for their parents' Golden Anniversary, which many church people and friends were invited to also. It was a very blessed day, with glory being brought to God for His goodness to them and the message clearly going out that their reason for being here is to serve Him and bring others to Him. We hope they have many more years of service together!

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**KANSAS, BERN**  
**Sheri Edelman**  
**Sally Strahm**

Greetings to each one!

Grandparents, Bro. James and Sis. Louise Menold, are happy another granddaughter, Macy Lynn, has joined their family circle. Macy's parents are Bro. Scott and Sis. Jamie Bahr of the Detroit, MI, congregation. We pray God will be with them as they raise her up in the fear and admonition of thee.

"For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh."

*Ephesians 5:31*

We rejoice as two souls have felt directed to become husband and wife. Bro. Koertland Beyer of the Sabetha congregation (Peter Beyer and Sis. Luann Beyer of Oakville, IA) was announced to Sis. Rebekah Rokey (Bro. Galen and Sis. Nancy) on December 21.

We likewise rejoice with Bro. Kevin Sauder of Tremont, IL, and Sis. Jody Kaeb who were announced that same Sunday. Their parents are Bro. Marvin and Sis. Mary (Tremont, IL) and Bro. Jim and Sis. Diane Kaeb.

January 4 was the wedding day for Bro. Neil and Sis. Leann Banwart. Parents are Elder Bro. John and Sis. Connie Lehman and Elder Bro. Wayne and Sis. Charlen Banwart (Champaign, IL). We wish them God's richest blessings as they walk the Godly path together.

We appreciate visiting ministers with us. Bro. Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne) and Bro. Brandon Plattner (Sis. Rhoda) of the Sabetha congregation, Elder Bro. Wayne Banwart (Sis. Charlen) and Bro. Brian Waibel (Sis. Wendy) of the Champaign, IL, congregation, Bro. Wayne Grimm (Sis. Rose, West Bend, IA), Bro. Loren Schrenk (Sis. Betsy, St. Louis, MO), Bro. Dean Steffen (Sis. Carol, Belvidere, IL), Bro. Gary Endress (Sis. Evelyn, Bradford, IL), Elder Bro. Kent Heimer (Sis. Jan, Taylor, MO) and Bro. Keith Beyer (Sis. Alisa, Detroit, MI) were with us this past month. Elder Bro. Don Braker (Sis. Eileen, Kansas City, MO) was with us on New Year's Eve. Thank you, brothers, for your labors of love.

Our prayers go to those who were in the hospital or have had injury mishaps. May we remember

Bro. Edwin Strahm (Sis. Ramona) and Benola Bieri.

We once again enjoyed listening to the Sunday School Christmas program on December 21. We also had Christmas Day services and New Year's Eve services.

The mid-winter Elder Conference was held in Congerville, IL, on February 11-13. We pray for our Elders each time they gather together that the Spirit will guide them and direct them.

Our annual church business meeting was held January 13. We thank those who have served in various duties and terms are over. We likewise pray for those who will be taking on new responsibilities in the coming year. As for our Sunday School teachers, we pray that God will be with them as they teach our children. Bro. Todd Fehr (Sis. Cynthia) and Bro. Adrian Strahm (Sis. Harriett) will be replacing Bro. Jeff Baumgartner (Sis. Kim) and Bro. Brad Strahm (Sis. Michelle). Sis. Lori Baumgartner (Bro. John) and Sis. Kristen Meyer (Bro. Jim) will be replacing Sis. Joan Kaeb (Bro. Paul) and Sis. Peggy Strahm (Bro. Kyle). Sis. Holly Meyer (Bro. Duane) will finish up for Sis. Tiffany Menold (Bro. Ryan) due to the arrival of their baby in March.

Bro. Emil Strahm now resides in the Apostolic Christian Nursing Home. May we be prayerful for him and his family as he makes this change.

Dustin Dettwyler (Gary and Sis. Tami, Silverton, OR) has moved to Kansas. We pray he'll feel welcomed as he assembles with the Bern congregation.

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**KANSAS, FORT SCOTT****Ruth Bahr**

The Sunday School classes, teachers and others worked hard to present a nice Christmas program.

Everyone was invited to carol with the Sunday School children one evening. They went to three rest homes and to retired Elder Bro. Raymond Banwart (Sis. Kathryn) who was in the hospital. Also hospitalized for several days, at a later time, was his great-grandson, Conor Miller (Dave and Trista). Both have assembled with us since.

Thanks to Elder Bros. Don Braker (Sis. Eileen, Kansas City, MO) and Ronald Schambach (Sis. Nancy, Elgin, IL) for their willingness to serve our congregation.

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**KANSAS  
LAMONT-GRIDLEY  
Eileen Bahr**

Christmas love is special when families "come home". Bro. Brandon and Sis. Maria Emch (Kansas City, MO) shared Christmas eve services with us. December 28, when our ministers were out of town, Bros. Dean Messner (Winthrop, MN), Cory Metzger (Wichita, KS), Jeff Bahr (Kiowa, KS) and families blessed us with their messages.

January 11 brought ministering Bro. Rex Frieden and family (Lamar, MO) to our small church. We thank them and appreciate them all.

Giving her life to the Lord has put a sweet smile on Kasha Kraft (Bro. Doug and Sis. Judy).

Bro. Rudy Bahr had a total knee replacement on January 9 and is making good progress.

Thankful Grandpa Bro. Ron Isch (Sis. Jane) called me early in

the morning with the good news of a baby girl, Haley Nicole Isch, born January 13 to new parents, Justin and Liz Isch, Gridley.

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**KANSAS, SABETHA  
Mary Kay Wenger  
Jeanelle Plattner**

Jeff and Tamra Emert of Topeka, KS, welcome the arrival of Quinn Jady on December 9. She is welcomed home by brothers: Kyler, Tate and Reese, and grandparents, Bro. Jay and Sis. Marilyn Kellenberger and Darryl and Judy Emert, all of Sabetha.

Welcoming the birth of Brendan Kade Strahm on December 19 was first-time parents, Bro. Troy and Sis. Dawn Strahm. Thankful grandparents are: Bro. Carl and Sis. Sharon Strahm and Bro. Wayne and Sis. Rose Grimm (West Bend, IA).

We welcomed Bros. Wayne Grimm (West Bend, IA), Rex Frieden (Lamar, MO) and Keith Beyer (Detroit, MI) as visiting ministers this past month.

We were pleased to hear of two engagements: Bro. Koertland Beyer (Peter Beyer and Sis. Luanne Beyer, Oakville, IA) to Sis. Rebekah Rokey (Bro. Galen and Sis. Nancy, Bern, KS). Also, Bro. Gale Kellenberger (Bro. Gene and Sis. Marian) to Sis. Belinda Stoller (Bro. Darrell and Sis. Gloria, Bern, KS). May God shower His blessings upon them as they plan their weddings.

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**KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON  
Glenda Neukomm**

"Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest ob-

serve to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest."

*Joshua 1:7*

The New Year of 2004 is well upon us! The old year's accomplishments, struggles and problems become a dim memory, when we think of getting a fresh start.

It must have been something like that for the Israelites who stood with Joshua and looked at the new era ahead of them (Joshua 1:1-9). Behind them were 40 years of wandering in the desert. Ahead was a land of milk of honey. And best of all, they had God's promise that He would be with them.

As we stand with our back to the past 12 months and our face toward the new year, we can have hope because we too can be sure of God's help. That makes the prospect of a new year worth celebrating.

Though I know not what awaits  
me

What the future has in store,  
Yet I know that God is faithful,  
For I've proved Him oft before.

—anon.

On Wednesday evening, January 14, we had our annual business meeting. Our Elder Bro. Andy Stoller (Sis. Roberta, Smithville) was present. May the Lord bless those who have faithfully completed their assignments. May we encourage those who have been given new responsibilities.

We pray the Lord will richly bless our visiting ministers who made the effort to come and share the Word of God with us these past



couple months. They are: Bros. Paul Gasser (Sis. Joyce, Akron); Greg Stoller (Sis. Jill, Forrest); Walt Steffen (Sis. Dorothy, Milford); Greg Lehman (Sis. Mary Beth, Wolcott); and Larry Wenninger (Sis. Joyce, Latty).

Ben and June Huber's son, Jonathan, has been serving in the marines for the past 2 years. He has been given another assignment overseas which will probably include Iraq again. We covet your prayers for him for the Lord's protection and safety during this difficult time.

We extend a welcome to any of you, who may be traveling this year, to visit us in Lexington. Please contact Bro. Lester Huber (859) 745-2541 or Bro. Jan Neukomm (859) 273-8574.

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### **MEXICO, IXTLAN** **Rosario Gonzalez**

As Solomon said, "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven." (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

In December, the time came when our two dear sisters, Sandra Leman (Roanoke, IL), and Penny Stahl (Chicago, IL) said farewell to our little congregation. It was good-by on this earth, but in Heaven we'll all be together forever. After church service we had a time of fellowship and eating with brothers and sisters and friends. It took place at "Betesda," the guest house. They shared their sentiments with us. They were so thankful to God and also to us for the time that they spent here in Ixtlán, and we are, too.

On December 31 our little flock had our Christmas program. Children, young people and older

folks came together to sing, praise, and remember the birth of Jesus as told in the Scriptures. We read some passages in the Bible about Jesus' birth. One of them was Luke 2:25-32. Bro. Marshall spoke about a man named Simeon. He was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel. We are redeemed with the shed blood of Jesus Christ. Now we should be waiting, watching and preparing, as Simeon did, until Jesus comes the second time.

First-time parents, ministering Bro. Eduardo (Lalo) and Silvia Ugalde, have been blessed with a precious little girl, Jana Keila. She was born on January 10. Her grandparents are José Luis and Elena Ugalde and Salvador and Guadalupe Cabrera. We pray that God will be with this family as they strive to raise this little one in the fear of God. (Philippians 3:13-14)

January 17-18 was a very blessed weekend as we heard the testimonies of two dear souls. We can see God's power acting day by day while we are on this earth. As He worked in these two souls through the Holy Spirit, we also are witness that they have changed their old life. They were baptized on Sunday. We welcome our new sisters in Christ, Lidia Rosas (who is Sis. Eloisa Aguilar's daughter-in-law) and Gloria Servín. May God give them grace to walk close to Him as He leads them through life. We want to express our thanks to our Elder Bro. Tom Hoffman and retired Elder Bro. Don Sauder, both from Roanoke, who came down to share God's Word. May the Lord reward them for their willingness to come and help in this work.

### **MICHIGAN, ALTO** **Terri Huber** **Rose Watson**

Once again, our congregation rejoices with the angels in heaven for yet another soul has started the journey and turned to the Lord Jesus Christ as his Saviour, Andy Oesch (Bro. Tom and Sis. Michelle). Our small country church now has 13 converts to be thankful for and rejoicing with; the most at one time that anyone can remember. We thank God for them all and pray He will be with them and guide them every step of the way.

In January we have our annual business meeting. We are thankful for all who participated and those that have served in various rolls in the past year. We welcome the following into their new positions: Secretary and Woodhaven Rep. – Bro. Paul Jackson (Sis. Margaret); Trustee – Bro. Martin Blough (Sis. Michelle); Bro. Vern Meyer will continue his efforts as one of our ushers. For World Relief – Sis. Laurie Steffen (Bro. Terry), and the Food Committee – Sis. Sandy Schutte and Sis. Kim Koehl (Bro. Rob). We pray for the Lord's guidance in the upcoming year.

Also, we are excited as the excavating portion of our new fellowship hall is under way.

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### **MICHIGAN, BAY CITY** **Sarah Knochel** **Janelle Ramseyer**

We are thankful that the Christmas season brought visiting ministers to our area. Bro. Ned Stoller (Sis. Heidi, Alto, MI) spent Christmas Eve with our congregation. We also thank Bro. Dave Steffen (Sis. Linda, Elgin, IL) for being with us December 28. Bro. Frank Sauder

(Sis. Kathy, Roanoke, IL) also spent a Sunday with us in January. We trust that the Lord will be with these dear brothers and their families for their willingness to be used in the service of the Lord.

Our prayers are with Bro. Gene Meylan (Sis. Carol) and Michelle Curtis (Jim and Loral) as they have spent time under physician care this past month. We are thankful the Lord has provided both with a speedy recovery.

In heaven no drooping nor pining,  
No wishing for elsewhere to be;  
God's light is forever there shining.  
How beautiful heaven must be.

How beautiful heaven must be,  
Sweet home of the happy and free;  
Fair haven of rest for the weary,  
How beautiful heaven must be.

*Gospel Hymns #79*

In the past month our congregation has experienced the loss of many near and dear to us. We cling to the words of this hymn as we remember the dear ones that have passed on before us. We trust in the promise of the Lord that we will indeed see our loved ones again. Heaven will be our beautiful meeting place.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of Clyde Wackerle, who left his earthly home for a brighter one in heaven just before Christmas. It is a comfort to know Clyde had turned his heart over to the Lord in repentance. We especially want to remember his family; his son, Doug, and his sisters, Sis. Lula Meier and Sis. Alice Mehl. We pray that the Lord will continue to comfort and bless each one.

Our hearts go out to Bro. Jim

and Sis. Kay Knochel and their family during the tragic loss of Sis. Kay's parents, Albert and Lorraine VanTol, in a car accident. We pray that the Lord will continue to support and guide the family through their time of grief.

Our prayers are also with Bro. Richard and Sis. Yolanda Jackson and their family in the loss of Sis. Yolanda's brother, Sam Koehler. May the Lord continue to stand by them and uphold them in His powerful hands.

Our love and prayers are with Mike and Sis. Cheryl Schmidt and their family with the passing of Mike's brother, Randy Schmidt. We pray that the Lord will be their strength and stronghold in this time of sorrow.

May the Lord continue to bless and be with all of us as we continue on in His service.

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### MICHIGAN, DETROIT

**Jamie Bahr  
Krista Wieland**

We were blessed to come together as a family of God to hear the annual Conference Letter. Elder Bro. John Lehman (Sis. Connie, Sabetha, KS) graciously assisted in sharing the exhortations and encouragements from the Elder body.

We are so thankful that our shepherds from across the land continue this biblical tradition as established by the early church (Acts 15). We also held our annual business meeting this month. As we consider the financial and administrative responsibilities of our church, we thank those who so willingly serve and pray that we would be good stewards with the resources with which God has blessed us.

As our college students once again return to their respective schools, we pray that God may be with them throughout the upcoming semester.

Hospitalized this month were Sis. Arlene Belsley and Navy Schrock, daughter of Bro. Troy and Sis. Jennifer. We pray God will bless their recoveries.

Our prayers and sympathy are with Bro. Guy and Sis. Rose Wieland in the death of her brother, Kenneth Fierke.

Thank you to visiting ministering Bros. John Jackson (Sis. Peggy, Bay City, MI) and Bill Waibel (Sis. Carol, Bay City, MI). Also, thanks to ministering Bro. Walt Rager (Sis. Sharon, Toledo, OH) for sharing the Word at Woodhaven this month.

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### MINNESOTA, MINNEAPOLIS Diane Stewart

With enthusiasm we welcome more youth into our congregation. Adam and Rachel Bjerkevdt are both studying at the University of Minnesota and worshipping with us. We wish them blessings and success in their schooling and their new marriage.

"Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world."

*James 1:27*

Recently hearing of some older people around the country having medical procedures and complications due to age, once again I am reminded of our Biblical duty and privilege to put forth effort to visit

and pray for them.

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### MINNESOTA, MORRIS

**Heidi Nohl  
Katie Koehl**

Elder Bro. David Graf (Akron, OH) ministered God's Word to us and helped with the reading of the Memorandum. May God bless him for his efforts and labors of love.

Bro. Tom Koehl and Sis. Patricia Manz were united in marriage on December 21 in Junction, OH. We trust they will feel God's direction as they establish their home together. Parents are Bro. Karl and Sis. Marilyn Koehl and Bro. Russell and Sis. Vera Manz (Junction, OH).

Hospitalized this month was Sis. Violet Wulf and Sis. Edna Zeltwanger (Kenneth). Those who underwent surgery were Bro. Lloyd Fehr (Sis. Diane) and Bro. Paul Fehr Jr. (Sis. Pam). May each feel God's nearness and strength.

Bro. Duane and Sis. Kay Feuchtenberger were blessed with another baby girl. Shanoa was welcomed home by siblings, Tristan, Shanda, Natalie, Tracy and CaraLee. Grandparents are Bro. Gerald and Sis. Karen Feuchtenberger and Bro. Ed and Sis. Lois Koehl.

Mitchell and Abby Fehr are happy to announce the arrival of their new baby boy, Monte Mitchell. We hope all goes well for them. Grandparents are Bro. Gary and Sis. Sandy Fehr and Vance and Kim Gullickson and Mark Ekren.

Carter Feuchtenberger and Amanda Luthi have announced their engagement. A summer wedding is being planned. Parents are Bro. Gerald and Sis. Karen Feuchtenberger and Dan and Christine Luthi.

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### MINNESOTA, WINTHROP

**Marilyn Messner  
Ginny Stoll**

Congratulations to first-time parents, Alex and Laura Yamnik. Aksana Sophie was born on January 1. Grandparents are Sam and Sandy Miller and Aksana's great-grandmother was Sis. Sophie Miller.

The children touched our hearts as they told of Christ's birth and sang songs of praise at the Sunday School Christmas program. Do we all have the simple faith of a child?

When our congregation gathered for our New Year's Eve service we were reminded of God's goodness and mercy. May we all look to our Heavenly Father for His strength and grace through the New Year.

We extend our sympathy and prayers to the family of Sis. Sophie Miller who passed away on January 10. We will miss Sis. Sophie's steadfast example and quick smile, but we are thankful she is not hurting anymore.

Our surgical patients this month are Tom (Maggie) Miller, Bro. Harold (Sis. Gerry) Messner, Bro. Marvin (Sis. Geri) Messner, and Sis. Marcelle (Bro. Ernie) Dapper. May each one feel God's healing hand.

#### *Note of Thanks:*

Bro. Marv would like to thank one and all for the phone calls, visits, food, cards, and prayers during and after his knee surgery and while at home. May the Lord richly bless all of you.

*Bro. Marvin and Sis. Geri  
Messner*

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### MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY

**Garry and Marty Rokey**

We are very appreciative of recent visiting ministers, Bros. Roger Aberle (Sis. LaVonne, Sabetha, KS) and John Rowell (Sis. Nelda, Burlington, IA). Even though they came to visit family, they lent of themselves to labor in the Lord's vineyard.

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."

*Colossians 3:16*

Many beautiful songs and carols have been written and composed about the birth of Christ. We were privileged to sing to many of them, not only in church, but also in nearby nursing homes and to those of our congregation who are shut-ins. After listening to the Sunday School children talk and sing about the birth of Jesus Christ, and after caroling Sunday afternoon, our church family enjoyed a chili supper.

"And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful."

*Colossians 3:15*

We pray that our friend, Mark Mattix, son of Sis. Anna Lou Aberle, has felt God's hand as he battles illness and the rigors of surgery. He has been hospitalized for some time and we hope he can feel our love and prayers for him.

On December 22, we laid to rest

our dear Sis. Sophie Delph (Bro. Jesse), after her long battle with cancer. We have the great hope and faith that she has slipped the bonds of earth and has entered into the joy of the Lord. Besides her beloved husband, she leaves her children, Dianna and Mike Delic, Jesse and Sue Delph and Dennis and Linda Delph; as well as many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. We continue to be prayerful for the Delph family as Bro. Jesse and children arrived home from the funeral only to find his house on fire. Repairs are in progress but it may be some time before he will be able to reside there again.

We greatly rejoice with Bro. Galen Kellenberger (ministering Bro. Randy and Sis. Karen) and Sis. Shannon Dettwyler (Gary and Sis. Tami), Silverton, OR, as they have announced their engagement. A May wedding is being planned. We wish them God's richest blessings as they walk the pilgrim journey here on earth together.

"And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him."

*Colossians 3:17*

On January 11, Elder Bro. Don Braker conducted our annual business meeting. Elected to trustee was Bro. Nate Young (Sis. Stephanie); to the food committee, Sis. Heather Persinger; and to Sunday School teacher, Bro. DeVere Meyer (Sis. Michelle). Even though there are both small and large responsibilities in church, we are one body in Christ.

"From whom the whole body

fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love."

*Ephesians 4:16*

*Note of Thanks:*

Dear Brothers, Sisters and Friends,

I want to extend my sincerest thanks to each of you for all that you have done for Sophie and me over the past years. Without your love and prayers, I don't know if I could have endured. Thank you for all of the times you came to visit and for all of the wonderful meals you prepared. It was very difficult for Sophie when she got to the point that she couldn't make it to church anymore, but it was such a blessing when you would visit. We both missed the weekly fellowship that we had for so many years, but your visits helped us both greatly. Thank you for all of the love you extended to us.

You also showed how much you loved my Girl when so many of you sacrificed your time to be with us as we laid Sophie to rest. I know that many of you drove a long way to attend the viewing and funeral. I told my son, Jess, "They are here because they love your mom."

I thank the Lord that I have such a loving church family. With your prayers and support, I know that I will be able to go on. You all truly show what the love of Christ means. I pray that I will be able to return the love you have shown.

Again, I thank all of you.

*Your Brother in Christ,*

*Jesse Delph*

## MISSOURI, LAMAR

### Wendy Braker Becky Marti

"Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord..."

*Psalm 127:3*

We rejoice with Bro. Brian and Sis. Kristen Leman and Brett as they welcomed Andrew Jay into their family on December 23. May they seek God's direction as they raise him. Thankful grandparents are Bro. Terry and Sis. Shirley Leman (Eureka, IL) and Bob and Sis. Janice Stoller of our congregation.

## MISSOURI, ST. LOUIS

### Krista Banwart

On January 4, Bro. Ken and Sis. Devon Rinkenberger welcomed Sis. Heidi (Inoue) of Bloomington, IL, into their family as the wife of their son, Bro. Jared Rinkenberger (Bloomington, IL). We are thankful Christ is the foundation of their new family and look forward to them coming to St. Louis to visit.

Visiting ministers this past month were Bro. Fred Eberhardt (Sis. Kathy, Burlington, IA), Bro. Steve Sauder (Sis. Mary, Tremont, IL), and Bro. Randy Mogler (Sis. Evie, Washington, IL). We appreciate their sharing and the eternal perspective we are drawn to when God's Word is spoken.

May we remember in February what a joy it is to be loved the way God always has and still does love us. "Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his son to be the propitiation for our sins." (I John 4:10). May we thank Him with our lives that oth-

ers may see and seek to know this love.

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### MISSOURI, TAYLOR Susan Haerr

We were privileged to host the Princeville Choir in the last month. Their songs truly blessed us and we were so thankful that they made the effort to come. Also traveling with them and blessing us from the pulpit that weekend were Elder Bro. Jim Plattner (Sis. Marlene) and Bro. Craig Martin (Sis. Terri). A very special thanks to each of you for a wonderful weekend. Jesus Christ was truly glorified through you!

Among those receiving medical attention in the last month were Sis. Loida Hodel, Dan Sutter (Sis. Tina), and Bro. David Marquart (Sis. Lori). We are glad to see you each doing well.

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Bro. James and Sis. Lois Sutter at the passing of Sis. Lois' sister-in-law, Sis. Karoline Wuthrich, of Pulaski, IA. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

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### NEW YORK CROGHAN-NAUMBURG Hope Graves

We shared a potluck dinner together on December 31, followed by a singing in the Sunday School room to welcome in the new year. We pray that the Lord will bring us closer to Him throughout this year and keep our eyes upon our heavenly goal at all times.

We rejoice with Bro. Doug and Sis. Elizabeth Reinhard (Junction, OH) in the birth of their little girl, Emily Ann. Emily joins big brother, Jonathan, at home. Grandparents

are Bro. Dan and Sis. Delores Reinhard (Croghan, NY) and Bro. James and Sis. Carolyn Spangler (Junction, OH). Bro. Jim and Sis. Marlene Sinn (Latty, OH) also welcomed a new addition into their family, Claudia Renee. Claudia is the new little sister of Zach, Daniel, Sadie, and Miriam. Grandparents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Delores Reinhard (Croghan, NY) and Bro. Walter and Sis. Renee Sinn (Latty, OH). May the Lord bless these little children and guide their parents in raising them up to know and love Him!

Jesus loves me! This I know,  
for the Bible tells me so.  
Little ones to Him belong.  
They are weak, but He is strong.  
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus  
loves me!  
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells  
me so!

*Hymns of Zion #176*

We rejoice with Bro. Brian Graves and Sis. Danielle Tripp as they were united in marriage on December 27. Parents are Bro. Floyd and Sis. Linda Graves Jr. and Victor and Jeanette Tripp. They will be making their home in Greensboro, NC. May the Lord be with them as they begin this new chapter of their lives together.

Our prayers went out to Bro. Dan and Sis. Delores Reinhard in the death of Dan's brother, Dale Reinhard (Bluffton, IN). May the family continually feel comfort from above in the days ahead.

We pray for speedy recovery for Linette (Joe) Bush who underwent surgery on January 19.

### OHIO, AKRON Joyce Gasser

Bro. Ned and Sis. Gail Spangler have become first-time grandparents with their daughter, Lisa, and her husband, Joe Pallini, having their first baby and the first baby in the new year in our congregation. Isaac Amerigo was born on January 7. They are thankful for this blessing from the Father in Heaven.

Bro. Zoltan Bako, age 66, went to be with the Lord January 9. He married Sis. Bonnie (Nagy) 39 years ago. They were blessed with three daughters: Melinda (Michael) Dermody, Sis. Sherri (Bro. Mike) Atanasov, Sandra (Roy) Haga; and grandchildren, Kristy and Lindsey Atanasov, and Nathan and Olivia Haga. Three brothers of Bro. Zoltan are living in this county: Bro. Sandor, Eugene and Jozsef. Bro. Zoltan was the second to be laid to rest in our church cemetery, just as he had predicted recently before going into surgery.

Mary Leidal will be having her 90th birthday on March 9, as she was born in 1914. We trust God's rich blessings continue with her.

Sis. Mary Ann Weigele (Bro. Al) had surgery. We pray for her recovery and relief.

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### OHIO, COLUMBUS Julie Grimm

We are again reminded that we never know what tomorrow holds for our lives. Our Silver Lining Reporter, Sis. Nancy Banks, experienced this last week when the vehicle she was driving hit a patch of ice and she was injured in an accident. She is currently hospitalized and faces a period of recovery ahead of her. We trust God to provide for her during this time.

January 9 was a blessed evening of work and fellowship as we gathered for World Relief Night to pack-age soup mix. We appreciate the enthusiastic participation of our College Students.

We are thankful that God's Word is a lamp unto our feet, and a light unto our path. Sharing the Word with us was Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Mansfield, OH), Bro. Jerry Bauman (Rittman, OH) and Bro. Todd Stoller (Latty, OH). God bless them for their labors.

Rejoicing in God's gift of peace are Paul and Nichole (Steffen) Suvar. What a blessing for our small flock as we anticipate their baptism in the near future!

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### OHIO, JUNCTION Cindy Schlatter

Thus united, And in concord,  
Let us walk the path of life;  
*Zion's Harp #37*

Sis. Patricia Manz (Bro. Russell and Sis. Vera) and Bro. Tom Koehl (Bro. Karl and Sis. Marilyn) of Morris, MN, were joined hand in hand to walk this path of life together on December 21. May our Heavenly Father richly bless this dear couple. We will certainly miss Sis. Patricia, but know that she will be warmly welcomed in Morris. We look forward to your visits back in Junction! A sincere thank-you goes to the following ministering brothers who shared this weekend with us: Bro. Mike Baumann (Mansfield, OH) and Bro. Todd Stoller (Latty, OH).

Peace! Peace! Wonderful peace,  
Coming down from the Father  
above;

Sweep over my spirit forever I  
pray,  
In fathomless billows of love.  
*Gospel Hymns #746*

This wonderful gift of peace has been given to Rachel Baltic (Bro. Dan and Sis. Betty, Lexington, KY). We trust God will continue to lead, guide, and direct Rachel as she looks forward to the weekend of her testimony.

We would like to thank Bro. Ted Luginbuhl (Smithville, OH) for ministering the Word to us on a recent Sunday. May God be your rich rewarder.

January 14 was a special day for Heather and Caleb Manz as this was their little brother's birth day. Brian Glenn's thankful parents are Bro. Tony and Sis. Denise, and thankful grandparents are Elder Bro. Ervin and Sis. Sandra Knecht (Eureka, IL) and Bro. Ken and Sis. Gwen Manz. May God be with you as you raise your dear children.

Bro. Bud Manz (Bro. Alvin and Sis. Betty) spent some time in the hospital. We are thankful God watches over each one and heals according to His good and perfect will.

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### OHIO, LATTY Amanda Steffen Bonny Wenninger

"This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it."

*Psalms 118:24*

We were privileged to have many visiting ministers this past month. Elder Bro. Mark Masters (Sis. Jeanine, Mansfield, OH) was here on January 3-4 to help Elder Bro. John with the testimonies and

baptisms of Sis. Laura Gerber (Bro. Dave and Sis. Patty) and Sis. Danielle Stoller (Bro. Kirk and Sis. Eileen). How wonderful to add two more souls to the numbers! Other visiting ministers include Bros. Greg Stieglitz (Sis. Lisa, Indianapolis, IN), Randy Gasser (Sis. Sue, Detroit, MI), Steve Stieglitz (Sis. Jane, Leo, IN), Dan Stoller (Sis. Deb, Remington, IN) and Walt Rager (Sis. Sharon, Toledo, OH).

On December 17, our Sunday School students presented their annual Christmas program to the church. It was wonderful to be reminded of Christ's birth from children of varying ages.

On December 30, Bro. Gene Stoller (Leo, IN) was laid to rest in Latty beside his wife, Sis. Minerva, who preceded him in death in 1996. Surviving relatives in Latty include a sister-in-law, Sis. Mildred Stoller (the late Bro. Louis), and a brother, Bro. Glen Stoller (Sis. Edie). Only three days later, on January 2, Sis. Marge Laukhuf was also laid to rest. Her husband, Bro. Ken, survives along with their children, Bro. Tom, Sis. Carol (Bro. Ron Koehl, Sarasota, FL), Bro. Bruce (Sis. Vickie) and Valerie (Mike Klima, Columbus Grove, OH). Both Bro. Gene and Sis. Marge left many children and grandchildren behind and our sympathies go out to all family members.

On New Year's Day, we had our annual business meeting following New Year's Day services. New offices were voted on and other terms were completed. A special thanks goes to all those who have served in the past year(s) and our prayers go to those who are renewing an office or are beginning a new one. A tally

of the year 2003 showed the Latty congregation to have 17 births, 4 deaths, 4 weddings, 6 baptisms, and there were 15 converts at the end of the year.

*Note of Thanks:*

We sincerely wish to thank you all for the beautiful cards, gifts and good wishes we received on our 50th anniversary. We appreciate them all.

*Bro. Russell and Sis. Melvene Stoller*

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**OHIO, MANSFIELD**  
**Esther Baumann**

Yet in sorrow I find comfort;  
In the dark I trust my God;  
*Zion's Harp #157*

Our sympathy and prayers are with two of our families who have recently lost loved ones. Eric Dotterer of Tennessee passed away unexpectedly. He is survived by his wife, GeorgeAnn; sons, Eric Jr. and William (Billy); parents, Bro. Lavern and Sis. Christine; and siblings, Sis. Cheryl, Bro. Gaylord (Sis. Betty) and Duane.

Sis. Ann (Oesch) Farney (Bro. Harvey, dec.) from our Wichita, KS, congregation also passed away. Surviving relatives in our area include her sisters, Sis. Emilie Went and Martha Oesch; her brother, Bro. Elmer (Doris) Oesch; her sister-in-law, Sis. Katherine (Bro. John, dec.) Oesch; and her brother-in-law, Bro. Wallace (Sis. Helen, dec.) Ramsier.

Brethren who were recently hospitalized and still in need of our prayers are Sis. Lucille Groh, Sis. Henrietta (Bro. Adam) Baumann, Bro. David (Sis. Edna) Eyerly and

Bro. John (Sis. Lillian) Miller.

I wish to love my Saviour more  
sincerely,  
And not to grieve Him, Who loved  
me so dearly...

*Zion's Harp #232*

On the evening of December 31, we had the blessed privilege of worshipping together one final time for the year 2003. We were exhorted to "keep first things first". May all of us keep our priorities in God's will in the coming year.

*Note of Thanks:*

We want to thank everyone for your prayers, cards, food and gifts of love since Eric's death. God bless you all.

*Bro. LaVern and Sis. Christine Dotterer Family*

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**OHIO, RITTMAN**  
**Laurel Indermuhle**  
**Anne Widmer**

"When they heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy."

*Matthew 2:9-10*

Christmas, a time when each of us can rejoice that Christ was sent upon this earth; in this we are given the opportunity to have salvation through Him. There has never been a greater gift at Christmas.

We continue to keep those who have been hospitalized and who are recovering from surgery in our prayers. These include Colby Hartzler (Bro. Mark and Sis.

Natalie), Bro. Ernest Howell (Sis. Rowene), Joseph Schar (Bro. Gary and Sis. Vicki), Bro. John Calame (Sis. Margaret) and Sis. Deloris Maibach (Bro. Jack). May God keep each one in His care.

May God's nearness and comfort be with Sis. Sheri Atanasov (Bro. Mike) and her family as her father, Bro. Zolton Bako (Sis. Bonnie, Akron), passed away.

We had several visiting ministers this month. We want to thank Bro. Bill Brake (Sardis, OH), Steve Pamer (Akron, OH) and Fred Domka (Mansfield, OH) who were with us to share God's Word. May God bless each one.

"From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

*Matthew 4:17*

We rejoice with Don Powell (Sis. Carol) and Michael Dotterer (Bro. Rick and Sis. Dawn) who have felt and answered the call to repentance.

On December 20, Kendra Rebecca was born to Bro. Matt and Sis. Laura Bauman. She will be joining older brother, Dirk. Welcoming her as grandparents are Bro. Jerry and Sis. Martha Bauman and Bro. Ken and Sis. Becky Zollinger (Smithville).

The engagement of Bro. Ben Rufener (Bro. Dan and Sis. Karen) to Sis. Susie Rufener (Bro. John and Sis. Emily) from Smithville was made known. May God be their continual Guide.

December 18 was the marriage of Elaine Christian (Bro. Ron and Sis. Joann) to James Russell.

We welcome Bro. Mike and Sis. Heather Katanic and family as they

make Rittman home. They have moved from Denver, CO.

May God continue to be with us on this path of life as we start a new year.

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**OHIO, SARDIS**  
**Jami Zollinger**  
**Terry Zollinger**

“He giveth snow like wool: he scattereth the hoarfrost like ashes. He casteth forth his ice like morsels: who can stand before his cold?”

*Psalm 147:16-17*

As I am writing this, sleet and snow is laying on the ground but we can be thankful for all the conveniences that the Lord has blessed us with to keep us warm. If the Lord tarries, we can look forward to spring and warmer weather soon.

Several of our loved ones have been staying in and not even venturing out to go to church due to illness. We miss each one and hope they can attend services soon. Malachi Blough (Bro. Alan and Sis. Renee) spent time in the hospital. We pray for God's healing hand and for Him to give Bro. Alan and Sis. Renee strength through this trying time.

“For the priest's lips should keep knowledge, and they should seek the law at his mouth: for he is the messenger of the Lord of hosts.”

*Malachi 2:7*

Bro. Doug Harmon (Sis. Lana, Toledo, OH) visited over the holidays with family and was willing to serve us the Living Word. May the Lord bless Bro. Doug for his willingness to be used of the Holy Spirit.

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**OHIO, SMITHVILLE**

**Alyssa Miller**  
**Ruth Gasser**

Ministering Bros. Marvin Dotterer (Forrest, IL) and Mark Ramsier (Sardis, OH) have recently labored in our behalf to bring the Gospel of truth. We appreciate their efforts and thank the Lord for the opportunities to worship so freely. Certainly this is not the case in many parts of the world.

The engagement of Bro. Ben Rufener (Rittman, OH) and Sis. Susie Rufener was made known to the congregation on December 28. May the Lord be near them as they prepare for this important step, and lead them to a strong lasting union in faith. Bro. Ben's parents are Bro. Dan and Sis. Karen (Rittman, OH) and Sis. Susie's parents are Bro. John and Sis. Emily.

Bro. Ken and Sis. Becky Zollinger are rejoicing over the safe arrival of another grandchild. Kendra Rebecca was added to the family of Bro. Matthew and Sis. Laura Bauman (Rittman, OH).

Many things about tomorrow  
 I don't seem to understand,  
 But I know Who holds tomorrow,  
 And I know Who holds my hand.

Several of our loved ones are experiencing illness, pain and afflictions. We pray that they feel the Lord's strength through these difficult days, and healing according to His will. Recently hospitalized were Bro. Charles Nieman (Sis. Delphine) and Eileen Beery (Art).

Our prayers of sympathy have arisen for the family of Eric Dotterer. Bro. Harold (Ted) and Sis. Rhea Beery, Elmer (Tug) and

Sis. Alma Maibach, and Bro. Charles and Sis. Delphine Nieman are his uncles and aunts. We also hold up in prayer Bro. Craig and Sis. Gale Emch, as Sis. Gale's father, Curtis Snyder, passed away. May they feel our support, and the Lord provide a healing balm.

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**OHIO, TOLEDO**  
**Rebecca Beard**

How much we take God's blessings for granted in our lives. When considering the events that have happened in our congregation during the past month that should be reported, it seemed that few things had occurred. Yet many things have happened while being held in the palm of God's hand. In the middle of the cold winter we have had food and warm shelter everyday. We have traveled many safe miles in warm comfortable autos. We have had the opportunity to gather unmolested at least twice a week to sit under the sound of God's Word. And perhaps best of all we know God's hand is still holding the door of grace ajar as we hear of souls in our congregation heeding the Lord's call to seek out their soul salvation. May we stop and try to consider the many blessings of God that sustain us each and every day.

A visiting brother to help our two ministering brothers is one of those blessings. Bro. Art Ingold (Rittman, Ohio) shared the Word with us January 18. Bro. Art and Sis. Bonnie's son, Curt, is one of our college students and often they visit bringing other friends and relatives with them.

Sis. Frances Laidig spent a week in the hospital after a fall at home. Thankfully nothing was broken. Sis. Frances continues to recuper-



ate at a local nursing home.

*We close this month with a note of thanks:*

We wish to thank everyone for all their loving kindness, support and prayers during Kelly's two surgeries and illness. We have all felt the prayers of everyone. The Lord has been gracious and faithful as she gets stronger every day.

*In Christian love,*

*Sis. Connie and Dave Sancraint,  
Kelly and Richard Chamberlain*

## **OREGON, PORTLAND**

### **Louisa Gallup**

Last month we assembled after church one Sunday to hear the Sunday School Christmas program. We enjoyed listening to the children sing and recite verses. The effort they put forth was appreciated by all. May they keep the real meaning of Christmas in their hearts always.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Bro. Ray Moser (Sis. Barb) as he underwent surgery recently. May the Lord's healing mercies be with him in the coming weeks. We hope he will be able to assemble with us soon.

We thank the following ministering brethren for bringing us the Word this past month: Elder Bro. Art Metz (Sis. Betty), Bros. Ed Knecht (Sis. Judie) and Todd Zollinger (Sis. Michele), all from Silverton.

May you all have a blessed New Year.

## **OREGON, SILVERTON**

### **Kelsey Walder**

We are so thankful this month for the amount of joy our congregation has been blessed with. We re-

joice with Shawn Schurter as he confesses he has found the priceless pearl of peace with God and man. He has our loving prayers as he prepares for Baptism. Lord Willing, we look forward to the provings and baptisms of Shawn, Lee Jones (Bro. Ron and Sis. Liz Jones), and Monte and Kellie Kuenzi the weekend of February 28, 29.

We are also rejoicing with our Sis. Shannon Dettwyler (Gary and Sis. Tami) and Bro. Galen Kellenberger (Bro. Randy and Sis. Karen) from Kansas City, MO, as they announced their engagement. They are making preparations for their wedding on May 9. They are in our prayers as they continue to seek God's guidance in this step of faith.

Little Heidi Marie was welcomed into the hearts and home of first-time parents, Bro. Kevin and Sis. Jill Dettwyler, on January 3. Grandparents are Bro. Loren and Sis. Marlene Dettwyler and Bro. Jim and Sis. Joan Dietrich. May God bless this dear couple with wisdom to train her up in the knowledge of the Lord.

Our hearts were thankful for Bro. Bill and Sis. Kris Luthi and family as they were able to bring their premature daughter, Cheyanne, home from the hospital; however, she later had to return for further care. They anticipate that she will be discharged home in a few days. We continue to hold this family up in our prayers. The following is a note they wanted to send:

*A note of thanks* to all brethren and friends who have remembered us in prayer during Cheyanne's hospital stays. It is humbling, but we greatly appreciate our church family who so willingly help and

support us with cards, calls, meals, gifts, money and babysitting our other children during our trips to the hospital. We thank our Heavenly Father and give Him the credit for her returning health. Thank you for your prayers on our behalf.

*Your least in Christ,*

*Bill and Kris Luthi and family*

Also in the hospital this month was Bro. Lynn Kuenzi (Sis. Marilyn) for Coronary bypass surgery and infant Luke Kuenzi (Bro. Aden and Sis. Becky) for respiratory difficulties. We are thankful both are at home and are recovering well.

We were thankful to have with us this month ministering Bro. Tim Zimmerman (Sis. Barb) from Lamont-Gridley, KS, and Elder Bro. Wayne Fehr (Sis. Kathy) from West Bend, IA. May God bless them for so willingly offering themselves as vessels for the Lord's service.

*Reminder to the Silverton Congregation:* The Silver Lining is funded by donations; February is the month set aside for Silverton's collection for this publication. Please let your correspondent know if you have any questions.

## **PENNSYLVANIA**

### **PHILADELPHIA**

#### **Nathan and MaryElizabeth Gasser**

This month we're pleased to welcome Sis. Sarah Wagenbach (Bro. Sherman and Sis. Joanne Lanz, Rockville, CT) into our congregation, as she was married to our Bro. Phil Wagenbach in December. We wish Bro. Phil and Sis. Sarah many years of happiness and an abundance of God's blessings

and grace.

We held our annual business meeting this month and had an opportunity to reflect on the past year and the valuable service performed by every member of our congregation, many in elected and appointed roles, many in other capacities. May we continue to grow closer together as a body of believers and strive to serve one another in humility and in love.

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### **TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE**

#### **Mike and Monica Fritz**

After a busy holiday season during which everyone in our congregation traveled, it was nice to return home to see what our gracious Lord has in store for us in the new year. This month, we have been blessed by the Word through our visiting ministers: Elder Bro. Ken Indermuhle (Sis. Linda, Sardis, OH) and Bro. Steve Baner (Sis. Donnalou, Gridley, IL). We have also appreciated the fellowship of brethren and friends visiting from Gridley, IL; Oakville, IA; Sardis, OH; and San Marcos, TX.

If you are traveling in or through the Nashville area, please plan to worship with us. The following churches are scheduled for services in the near future: Sabetha, KS (2/22); Washington, IL (2/29); Milford, IN (3/7); Smithville, OH (3/14); Cissna Park, IL (3/21); Kansas City, MO (3/28). If you are planning to worship with us, please call ahead to confirm our schedule. We also usually meet on Wednesday evenings for a song service and would welcome any midweek visitors. Contacts are Bro. Don and Sis. Faye Sauder (615) 373-8928, Bro. Mike and Sis. Monica Fritz (615) 952-9933, and Sis. Gwen Leuthold

(615) 662-2946.

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### **TEXAS DALLAS/FORT WORTH**

#### **Carrie Beyer**

Since I've started attending church in Texas, many ministers have reminded our small assemblies of what Christ said in Matthew 18:20: "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." After hearing it a few times, it's easy to tune the verse out. But it's vital to remember God's divine presence, especially when our congregation only consists of four or five people rather than the seven or eight we're used to seeing on Sunday. God promises His presence to any assembly gathered in His name, whether it consists of four or four thousand souls!

Remembering Matthew 18:20 also makes me all the more thankful for the visitors who make an effort to come! It was a great pleasure to have Bro. Ben Wysong (Sis. Janice, Sabetha) serve as our minister on Sunday, January 11. We were also thankful to welcome other local visitors. During February, we look forward to hosting a visiting minister from Rittman. Then, in March, Bluffton North is scheduled to send a minister.

Our congregation extends a warm invitation to anyone living near or traveling through the area to visit. We currently meet in Grapevine, TX, at the Holiday Inn Express immediately northwest of the D/FW airport, near the intersection of Highways 114 and 121. To reach the hotel while traveling either direction on Highway 121, exit on Main Street; the hotel is on the south side of the highway be-

hind several restaurants. For worship times or other information, please contact Bro. Ken and Sis. Sharon Lawson (817.431.0832) or Bro. Kyle and Sis. Carrie Beyer (817.989.0868).

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### **TEXAS, SAN MARCOS**

#### **Amy Ringger**

Our family just returned from a trip of visiting relatives and brethren in various locations. While pondering the trip on the drive home, the verse in Proverbs 27:17 came to mind. "Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend." Whether at home or away, it is good to be with those who in their lives and conversation can help us be "sharpened" in the Spirit.

Our ministers this month were Bros. Dean Messner (Sis. Wanda, Winthrop), Warren Zahner (Sis. Bonnie, Rockville), Elder Bro. Dennis Warner (Sis. Esther, Lester), John Hartman (Sis. Rosemary, Fairbury), and Leland Plattner (Zapata). Thanks to them and our visitors from Eureka, Congerville, and Morris.

We look forward to hosting visiting ministers from the following churches in March: Congerville (7), Kansas City (14), Leo (22), and Forrest (28).

We extend a hearty welcome to anyone else who may be in the area to worship with us. Please call ahead to help us plan for serving lunch and other activities. If you are available for fellowship on Saturday evening, Sunday evening, or during the week, we'd be happy to plan something then as well. See the ministers' book for contact information.

Our congregation continues to

meet for services at the Quality Inn in San Marcos, TX. San Marcos is located on IH-35, approximately 20 minutes south of Austin or about 50 minutes north of downtown San Antonio. Take Exit #206; the hotel is on the southbound frontage road.

### TEXAS, ZAPATA

#### Mary Plattner

The holiday season in Zapata brings families from the north here to visit their families. We enjoyed having the young children in our congregation for several weekends. We appreciated that Bro. Dean Messner (Sis. Wanda, Winthrop, MN) was willing to minister to our congregation.

We are thankful that John and Katie Schick, children of Bro. Bill and Sis. Joan, have found grace for repentance. They live in Rio Bravo, Mexico, and assemble with the Zapata congregation.

The families that live in the Valley area appreciate the visiting ministers that were able to travel to Pharr, TX, to have services. They will be having a visiting minister monthly. Bro. Tom Schrenk (Sis.

Joan, Zapata) and Bro. Galen Rokey (Sis. Nancy, Bern, KS) were in Pharr this past month.

Hospital patients have been Delores Messerli (Winthrop, MN) who is now home and doing well. Sis. Lillian Koehl had the misfortune of breaking an arm.

### VERMONT, NORWICH

#### Doug Mangers

Church services for the month were held on January 11. We were blessed to have visitors from Croghan-Naumburg, several young men from the Rockville Sunday School, and many other visitors from Rockville as well. We are thankful for each one, especially Bro. Duane Reutter and Bro. Dan Goric for their service to us from the pulpit.

The Rockville Sunday School boys and several others from Rockville braved the sub-zero temperatures that have plagued the Northeast recently to take a snowshoe hike on Saturday up to the top of a nearby New Hampshire peak. The only way to make it to the top of this mountain in such adverse weather conditions was to cover up

with the proper clothing and keep moving. Attempting the hike without the proper gear would have been dangerous with the cold temperatures and biting winds.

Climbing our Spiritual mountain is no different; God provides the protection and guidance necessary and only asks that we stay focused and keep moving. Satan will attempt to make the conditions rough, but putting on the "whole armour of God" as described in Ephesians 6 and focusing on our goal will allow us to overcome every obstacle on our way.

As we are dependent mostly upon visitors to fill up our small building, we are thankful for all who come to be with us and invite any who have travel plans in the Northeast to come worship with us on the second Sunday of each month. We begin our services with Sunday School singing shortly after 10:00 am. For information or directions, please contact Bro. Doug Mangers at (720) 979-7912 or Morey Weiss at (802) 295-5981.



*Sermon continued from page 2*

til I could repent. Until God called me and by His grace I could answer that call and could experience that conversion.

Notice here he said be ye converted (Acts 3:19). Something that God does for us. Not something that we can do ourselves. The miracle of salvation, the work of God.

Then we read further, if we jump ahead a few verses, that it says, "...and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls." (Acts 2:41). Sometimes we wonder, maybe. Why was it so different then? Or maybe we should say, why is it different today? Maybe we dare ask the question, why does it take as long as it does?

My mind goes back, dear ones, to some of the people, and this was not me. But there were people in my generation, and I believe that some of those people are still living, who started to repent. I can think of one instance, I believe it was two friends, who went to church on Sunday. They were home on leave from the army. They heard the Word of God. They were convicted. They answered the call and they started to repent. On Wednesday evening they were announced for "peace". And on Sunday they were baptized. Then they went on their way back to the service.

I know a brother, and I believe he is still living, who started to repent. I don't know what day of the week it was. But he said, "The next day I had peace and the next day they baptized me."

These brothers stayed true. So we might wonder, loved ones. I want to make this clear: I support the church 100%. I am in full support of the way it is going. But why does it take so long? Is it because we – and for me it took extra long. I am going to make that admission. I struggled and I did not know when it was going to come to an end.

Loved ones, is it a lack of faith on our part? Are we dying off? I think of those brothers, those three brothers, and there are probably many more. I don't think it took them six weeks to break the habit of – we know it didn't –

whatever it was. You name it. You fill in the blanks. It didn't take them six weeks to die off to it. The power of God is there.

Now I support that there is a period of probation. I support that we wait. I am not trying to change that. But I wonder, the enemy has gained experience, loved ones. The enemy is trying his very best to keep souls out. To keep them out in the darkness. To slow us down.

Do we have the faith as a church? Or is our faith being tried? Is it being chipped away? Do we use the excuse, well there is peer pressure? I don't want to be misunderstanding. I don't want to be unsympathetic. Loved ones, there was always peer pressure. We have had the enemy of the soul since the time of the Garden of Eden.

The Word exhorts us to faith. Peter here, he had a message. He said, "...Save yourselves from this untoward generation." (Acts 2:40). We have got to get away from the influence of the world.

The Lord Jesus prayed. What were His words? You can turn to it, I believe, in the fourteenth chapter in the Gospel of John. Something like this ... I know they can't be taken out of the world, but keep them from the world (John 17:15). And we can do better, can't we loved ones? We can become more separated from the world.

We were so richly reminded. I appreciated it so much this morning. We don't have to be ashamed of what we have, loved ones. And we rejoice in our salvation. I had to think of those people, when the prophet wrote about; they do this fast, this fast and this fast. They had their order and they were supposed to rejoice. I never thought of fasting, loved ones, as being something so easy or so pleasant. But they rejoiced because they were in communion with God. They were finding favor in His sight. They were obedient.

It is like that today if we have peace and we are finding grace, we rejoice in our salvation. It has no relationship to how much money we have or any of the other things in this world. Loves ones, the situation in Washington, the situation in the U.N., the situation in the other capitol has nothing to do with

the peace in our heart. It is our relationship with God.

If we die off to the sins of this world, we are of all men most fortunate and our hope is in heaven. We have a hope for a home in heaven. And that's ... I don't know how to describe it. We can't put it in words, can we?

Loved ones, he reminded them here, he used the words now, he said, "...Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." (Acts 2:38). A pointed reminder to each one of us; to we brethren, to the converts. Christ's blood is sufficient to forgive the sins of the whole world. We know that. We believe that with all our heart. But just remember there is that enemy that is out there and he wants to take us back. He works the hardest on the children of God.

I remember once hearing my father say – and I don't know, he wasn't speaking to me, but he spoke in my presence and he may have been directing it to me. My father was a very wise man spiritually. And I remember I was shocked. I don't know the words he used, but this same principle. That the enemy of the soul works the hardest on the children of God. He said, the rest of them he's already got. Well, I knew where I fit. But I was shocked to hear it.

Now we need to be forewarned. When he speaks of the remission of sins, we become free of sin. Our sins are forgiven. We do not live in sin, but it has the potential to come back.

That was pointed out to me; there was a brother who had cancer. He is still living and it was years ago. He said I asked the doctor, "Am I cured?" The doctor said, "We don't even use that word." He wouldn't answer the question. But he said, "We get it in remission." It has the potential to come back. The doctor knew it and you and I know it. But we can remain free of sin.

One of the things he pointed out here was, "...Save yourselves from this untoward generation." (Acts 2:40). The world isn't going to help us, loved ones. The farther away we can stay, we were reminded this morning, abstain from all appearance of evil (I

Thess. 5:22) so that we take a clear stand. We know where we belong. And the world knows where we belong. Let's keep our place.

"Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread and in prayers." (Acts 2:41-42). Probably the biggest challenge we face today. Continuing steadfastly. Over and over our faith is tried, isn't it? One of the biggest disappointments to me, loved ones, is when I see someone who has been faithful for a period of time and we had all the confidence. We know they were converted. We know they were forgiven. And they allow themselves to listen to these strange voices. And they are all around us.

Sometimes we wonder, well, how can they be so convincing? Don't check them out, loved ones. Don't take a hold of that rope and see whether the other end is pulling stronger than we are. Leave it alone. We don't have to touch - the Scripture says touch not the handle that is hot. We don't have to touch it and prove at what temperature it is going to burn us. It is hands off.

The world is full of deception. That part, I believe, is getting worse. But here we find the prescription, the recipe that fits for our time. "...continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship..." (Acts 2:42). Recognize the authority of the church. We are told sometimes that it is being challenged. Loved ones, I know that is true. But it should not be. Nothing has changed in the Word of God. Obedience. Respect for authority. Obeying our Elder. Esteeming our brother, Just as necessary today as ever. And yes, the enemy, I think, through education, is chipping away at these principles. It is a subtle thing.

We think of, "...in breaking of bread and in prayers." (Acts 2:42). The simple fellowship of the church, loved ones. It is our defense. Now we can gain and we can prosper. We can prosper as a church. We can grow in grace and we can grow in faith. And I have

faith we can grow in numbers. That God wants to bless His Word. But just so much depends upon our attitude and our submission to this Word.

Here it says, "And fear came upon every soul..." (Acts 2:43). God-fear is not out of style. Let's don't fall into this trap that the enemy dangles before us: we can do our own thing, we are the master of our faith, the captain of our soul. We are in the hands of God, loved ones! We pray to Him. We plead for mercy and we recognize that we are weak and that we don't control our destiny. But if we stay in the hands of the Lord Jesus ... we think of the song, Safe in the Arms of Jesus, #218 Hymns of Zion. There is no other place to be safe.

"... and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles." (Acts 2:43). Now that we can read and we can just go on. But we can also stop and consider it. We don't really see some of the miracles today in just the same way as were accomplished then. We think of that lame man that was there. Peter said I don't have any money to give you but just stand up on your feet and he did it! (Acts 3:6). And he was healed, not by the power of Peter but by the power of God. But I sometimes wonder, loved ones, are we limiting ourselves? Are we limiting the power of God by our lack of faith? Are we supporting our Elders the way we should? Are we giving them our full support? If we think things are not going just as good in the church as we would like to see them, are we giving them our full support?

The Lord Jesus said that the true church would be identified before all men by the love that we have one for another (John 13:35). We were taught about forgiveness, loved ones. Can we say, "I have forgiven everyone for everything that anyone ever did to me"? We ought to be able to say that every day, hadn't we, loved ones. If not, we are falling short of the Word.

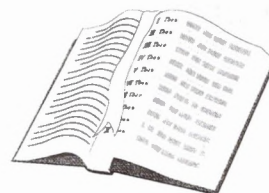
If the church presents that picture, we are going to be attractive. That is going to attract people. It is not that we are going to have some kind of new programs or something to entertain people. It is probably not going to be

something sensational. But if we have the love of God and the love of one another in our heart, that is going to be a sign and a wonder that the world is going to see.

Now, can we do all these things? Can we really get the job done in our time? Especially considering the conditions around us. Well, the scripture says, "And all that believed were together, and had all things common;" (Acts 2:44). There was a fellowship, loved ones. There was esteem for one another. There was the love of God in their hearts. And there was this thing of putting the other person's interest above our own. It worked then and it works today.

Now, we know they went through an experience there where they sold their possessions and there was a common ownership of things. They went through that period and later on it evolved to something else and the apostle said that everyone should work or they shouldn't eat (II Thess. 3:10). I am totally satisfied again with the order of the church today. There is not anything I want to change except that we want to comply more fully so that God can do His work.

Here we see what really can happen when you and I do our part. It says, "...the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." (Acts 2:47). Think of that, loved ones. If we come to church and if once a month we would hear of a soul that is repenting in our midst, we would rejoice as the angels in heaven rejoice. Here it is that it says, added to the church daily. With the power of God it is possible. In our time of great need, let's be encouraged, loved ones, to complete submission to the Word, that we might be humble in heart and that we are willing to suffer whatever the Lord asks. And that we will have faith to believe that He can carry each one of us to a safe end to reach that heavenly goal.



### **Tennessee Fellowship Singing (and Auction)**

Memorial Day Weekend 2004  
May 29-30, 2004

Singing and Auction located at the  
Apostolic Christian Tennessee  
Fellowship Area in Southern Tennessee

Sunday Worship Services in Athens, AL

Look for more details in subsequent  
issues of The Silver Lining  
and in your local congregation.

*And we know that all things work  
together for good to them that love  
God, to them who are the called ac-  
cording to his purpose.*

*Romans 8:28*

### **U.S.A. BOARD WORK PROJECTS**

For area work projects, please contact the following Disas-  
ter Work Project Committee Representative:

**Kansas:** Paul Kaeb  
Phone: 785-284-3261  
Cell: 785-547-5269  
E-mail: paulkaeb@ksiconveyors.com

**Iowa:** Martin Zaugg  
Phone/Fax: 515-379-1693  
Cell: 515-320-2404

**Illinois:** Marvin Sauder  
Phone: 309-925-4171  
Fax: 309-925-2409  
Cell: 309-241-8171  
E-mail: mmksblf@dpc.net

**Indiana:** Gerry Waibel  
Phone/Fax: 219-279-2582  
E-mail: glwaibel@hotmail.com

**Ohio:** Ken Zollinger  
Phone: 330-925-6370  
Fax: 330-927-6370  
Cell: 330-466-2247

## **NOTICE:**

### **NEW HOURS FOR APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN PUBLICATIONS STORE**

Starting on Saturday, February 7, 2004, Apostolic Christian Publica-  
tions will be open 9 A.M. To 12 P.M. on the first Saturday of each month in  
addition to the regular store hours of Monday-Friday from 8:30 A.M. to  
11:30 A.M. Store address is 805 West Cruger in Eureka, IL and the phone  
number is 309- 467-3611.

## CARIBBEAN BOARD PROJECTS - 2004

All volunteers should contact the project coordinator. Should you not be able to contact the coordinator, for Haiti direct your inquiry to Bro. Tom Hitz, Ph. 734-454-9229, Fax 1-734-454-9259 or E-mail [thitzhome@juno.com](mailto:thitzhome@juno.com). For Jamaica, direct your inquiry to Bro. Kevin Sauder, Ph./Fax 309-925-2409 or E-mail [ksss@dpc.net](mailto:ksss@dpc.net).

HAITI					
ORG.	DATE	AREA	COORDINATOR	PROJECT	CAPACITY
Palm Grove	Feb. 20-28, '04	Puit Sales	Tom Hitz	Grade School	11
MEBSH	Mar. 4-12, '04	Les Cayes	Rich Bertschi	Grade School	9
MEBSH	Mar. 11-19, '04	Les Cayes	Phil Isabel	Grade School	9
SEED	Mar. 18-26, '04	Les Cayes	Bob Beebe	Agriculture Aid	9
Palm Grove	Mar. 19-27, '04	Puit Sales	Mike Reinhard	Grade School	11
AWA-FRW	May 6-14, '04	Les Cayes	Rick Wuethrich	Vocational School	4
AWA-T	May 6-14, '04	Les Cayes	Derek Sauder	Water Aid	5
AWA-B	May 6-14, '04	Les Cayes	Bill Rager	Vocational School	2
JAMAICA					
CCCD	March 13-20, '04	Kingston	Terry Miller	Deaf School	40
CCCD	April 8 - April 16, '04	Kingston	Roanoke BC - Kevin Fischer	Deaf School	50
CCCD	May 21-29, '04	Deaf Village	Warren Kloter	Work Place	40
CCCD	June 4 - June 12, '04	Deaf Village	Taylor/Princeville BC	Work Place	50
CCCD	June 26 - July 3, '04	Knockpatrick	Mansfield BC - Pete Webel	Deaf School	40
CCCD	July 17-24, '04	Knockpatrick	Chicago/Francesville BC - Tom Neu	Deaf School	40

COORDINATOR	PHONE	FAX	E-MAIL
Jon Zeller	309-266-9009		<a href="mailto:zeller@mtco.com">zeller@mtco.com</a>
Derek Sauder	309-925-7502		<a href="mailto:Sauder_Derek_A@cat.com">Sauder_Derek_A@cat.com</a>
Jay Maibach	330-939-5234		<a href="mailto:jmmaibach@valkyrie.net">jmmaibach@valkyrie.net</a>
Bob Beebe	574-291-2158	574-299-8173	<a href="mailto:rbeebe@surfpure.com">rbeebe@surfpure.com</a>
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Phil Isabel	219-261-3541	219-261-2885	
Greg (Beth) Herman	309-243-5610		<a href="mailto:gbherman@juno.com">gbherman@juno.com</a>
Craig Emch	330-939-4591	330-939-4591	
Terry Miller	IL Phone: 309-696-7804	FL Phone & Fax: 941-485-4302	none
Dean Pashak	517-662-7685	517-662-7099	
Bill Rager	419-263-2989		
Pete (Linda) Webel	419-756-2587		
Kevin Sauder	309-925-2409	309-925-2409	<a href="mailto:ksss@dpc.net">ksss@dpc.net</a>
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Rick Wuethrich	219-567-9488	219-567-2542	<a href="mailto:topnotch@home.ffni.com">topnotch@home.ffni.com</a>
Art Mueller	608-676-4365		

**CCCD** = Caribbean Christian Center for the Deaf  
**MEBSH** = Missions of Evangelical Baptists of South Haiti  
**Palm Grove** = Mission of Haiti  
**S.E.E.D.** = An Agricultural School & Extension Service  
**TBA** = To Be Announced  
**Palm Grove** = Mission of Haiti

**A.W.A. - B.** = Apostolic Water Aid/Bluffton  
**A.W.A. - FRW** = Apostolic Water Aid/Francesville, Remington, Wolcott  
**A.W.A. - T** = Apostolic Water Aid/Tremont  
 (\*) = Changes or additions since last issue  
 (\*\*) = Spring Break Timeframe

### - NOTICE -

**Repair and Distribution of  
Worn Bibles,  
Bible Story Books,  
Hymns of Zion,  
Tabernacle or  
Gospel Hymn Books**

*We have so many requests for Sunday School material. Please send us your children's used VBS workbooks except grades 1 & 2 as they do not have Bible stories included.*

Please get your books to us or the Goodfield World Relief Center.

Books are mainly distributed to India, Philippines, and Africa.

Jerry and Arlene Banwart  
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Congerville, IL 61729  
(309) 448-2416

### **Apostolic Christian Counseling Services**

73 East Queenwood Rd,  
Morton, IL 61550  
309-263-5536 (local#)  
309-263-6841 (fax)

**877-370-9988 (toll free)**

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- Information about mental health issues and relationship problems
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- Telephone consultations with a counselor
- Staffed by professional counselors and registered nurses
- All calls are strictly confidential



APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN  
**World Relief**

### **Haiti Coordinator Position**

The Caribbean Board of the National World Relief Committee is taking applications for a couple/s to serve as full time coordinators in Haiti.

The job would consist of helping work teams in construction, well drilling, trade schools and assisting the MEBSH construction department with sea containers and lumber shipments. This position would also require some oversight of fund allocation and accounting of funds.

*For information contact Roger Sauder, Chairman, 954-584-0947 or e-mail at [rjsauder@juno.com](mailto:rjsauder@juno.com).*

### **BIBLE DISTRIBUTION**

*The Bible Distribution Center which was formerly in Leo, IN has been moved to Bluffton, IN.*

All books, including Bibles, in English and other languages, plus Bible Story Books which have been approved by the Apostolic Christian Mission Committee, are available for those who wish to distribute them in the name of Jesus Christ.

The book inventory is computerized, and the personnel at Bluffton can drop ship to nearly any address.

*To order, contact,*

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PO Box 30  
1254 S. Main Street  
Bluffton, IN 46714  
Phone and Fax 260/824-5587  
E-mail: [bibledist@parlorcity.com](mailto:bibledist@parlorcity.com)



## Mexico Work Teams 2004

<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Coordinator</u>	<u>Phone &amp; (e-mail)</u>
Juarez	March 6-13, 2004	Construction	Kurt Ifer	206-824-2829 <a href="mailto:k.ifer@mchsi.com">k.ifer@mchsi.com</a>
Agua Prieta	March 6-13, 2004	Construction	Wayne Lehman	574-773-4373 <a href="mailto:socks@bnin.net">socks@bnin.net</a>
Agua Prieta	March 13-20, 2004	Construction	Wayne Lehman	574-773-4373 <a href="mailto:socks@bnin.net">socks@bnin.net</a>
Rio Bravo	March 13-20, 2004	Construction	Jim Barth	309-367-2098 <a href="mailto:Barthlings6@juno.com">Barthlings6@juno.com</a>
Juarez	March 20-27, 2004	Construction	Bruce Aschliman	260-824-5160 <a href="mailto:aschlimanb@yahoo.com">aschlimanb@yahoo.com</a>
Agua Prieta	March 20-27, 2004	Construction	Denis Fry	260-824-3055 <a href="mailto:fry.d@mchsi.com">fry.d@mchsi.com</a>
Rio Bravo	March 20-27, 2004	Construction	Brent Young	217-367-1427 <a href="mailto:bdyoung1@uiuc.edu">bdyoung1@uiuc.edu</a>
Rio Bravo	April 10-17, 2004	Construction	Jim Rieker	309-693-1721 <a href="mailto:JRieker@SBCGlobal.net">JRieker@SBCGlobal.net</a>
Juarez	April 14-21, 2004	Medical/Dental	Cheryl Herrman	309-385-1082 <a href="mailto:cherylh@mtco.com">cherylh@mtco.com</a>
Rio Bravo	June 19-26, 2004	Construction	Joe Zimmerman	309-263-0254
Rio Bravo	July 3-10, 2004	Construction	Dean Fiechter	260-565-3439 <a href="mailto:dafiechter@parlorcity.com">dafiechter@parlorcity.com</a>
Rio Bravo	July 10-17, 2004	Construction	Dean Fiechter	260-565-3439 <a href="mailto:dafiechter@parlorcity.com">dafiechter@parlorcity.com</a>
Juarez	September 1-8, 2004	Medical/Dental	Cheryl Herrman	309-385-1082 <a href="mailto:cherylh@mtco.com">cherylh@mtco.com</a>

*If anyone would desire to go to Mexico at a time not listed on the schedule, please contact  
Bro. Mike Fiechter at 260-597-7330 or e-mail: [mfiechter@parlorcity.com](mailto:mfiechter@parlorcity.com)*



This begins an eight-part series on church practices. They are excerpts from booklets distributed to Sunday School teachers from Apostolic Christian Publications, Eureka, Illinois.

### **SEPARATED SEATING**

This seating procedure was adopted when our denomination was formed and has been practiced for many years. It is a custom appreciated by the brotherhood as a whole, and has proven to be a blessing during worship.

In holding to this policy for more than 160 years (in view of trends to the contrary), the church has not been hesitant in admitting there is no specific Biblical teaching regarding a worship seating arrangement. It holds, however, that the Bible does contain concise directives that allude to an atmosphere of godliness, reverence, order and good fellowship in the household of faith. These are Biblical themes.

Many theological historians write that this custom was practiced in the first century Christian churches. One source indicates, "The sexes were strictly separated, with either the men in front, and the women behind; or the men on the right, and the women on the left."

Another author wrote, "The rules of the primitive churches required the separation of the sexes in the church, and this was generally observed." Another book on Christian history up to 500 A. D. indicates that

regarding worship, "Men and women sat apart."

Prior to the time of Christ, Jewish worship referred to the "mehizah," a Hebrew word for a partition or fence. Jewish sources explain that as far back as Temple times men and women were separated during worship.

The pattern of separated seating during worship existed universally in the Christian faith from the early church up until approximately 100 years ago. At this time, the practice began to gradually break down. In the modern era, only Anabaptist-related churches observe this practice, with few exceptions.

### **Fellowship**

When a family unit attends church on Sunday morning, rather than remaining in their own tight circle and sitting together, separated seating allows them the opportunity to enjoy wider fellowship with brethren. By sitting apart from family (men together and women together), the individual is more exposed to, and learns to know more of, the brethren on a more intimate basis. As a result, deeper and more comprehensive relationships result.

### **Widows**

Separated seating is a vehicle which assists in perpetuating the love of God, particularly with respect to the widows, widowers, the unmarried and those who are alone in life. The church recognizes that a certain number of persons are alone

during the week, and may have to contend with the isolation and its frustrations all week long.

Yet, when they come into the house of God for worship and the opportunity is afforded for women to sit with women, and men to sit with men, their isolation and aloneness immediately disappear as they are blended in with the balance of the congregation. All are as one, and are as brothers and sisters in Christ. If the seating arrangement was mixed, the lonely, the single and those without families and relatives would continue to bear the weight of their particular situation without this welcome reprieve during the congregational worship services.

### **Singing**

Another valid reason for this seating arrangement concerns congregational singing. The church considers singing a very important part of a believer's life. As a result, singing is a prime part of the worship liturgy. Thus, to proceed with reverent and praiseworthy congregational singing, it is beneficial to have all women sitting together and all men sitting together. In this way, a beautiful four-part harmony (soprano, alto, bass and tenor), which is impressive in its simple beauty and dignity, is accomplished as the entire church joins together in lifting their voices to God. The church is deeply appreciative of the serene, natural and calm beauty of "a ca-

...continued on page 51

## REMEMBERING

...continued from page 50

PELLA" singing.

**Summary**

The custom of seating men and women separately has worked well. It is regarded as good because: (1) it contributes to order in the church, (2) it provides for closer and wider fellowship, (3) it allows for compassion toward the widows, the lonely and other single persons and (4) it contributes to reverent singing.

And in conjunction with these four reasons, it must be reiterated that this practice dates all the way back to the early Christian era, and into the pre-Christian (Jewish) era as well. Separation of the sexes during worship is not an oddity, but a mark of distinction. The Apostolic Christian Church, in recognizing the need for a godly and reverent atmosphere during worship (and one that reduces distraction), has retained an early church practice that the "modern" world, for the most part, has discarded. It has stood forthrightly beside a church practice that obviously is an asset to a worship service, and was recognized as such by Christianity up until a century ago.

This practice can best be understood when it is actually experienced over a period of time. Many brothers and sisters, both now and in generations past, have testified of the blessing found in coming into church — men sitting on the "men's side" and women on the "women's side," taking a Zion's Harp hymnal, and joining together in singing praises to God in unity (and sincerity).

By: Perry A. Klopfenstein

Next issue: **Singings**

# The Light Of Hope

## From Across The Ocean

### 希望の光

#### "Still Learning"

Elder Bro. Willis Ehnle, Shioda, Japan

I have never met anyone from whom I could not learn something. Even babies have much to teach us about our dependency upon others.

A Polish professor of World History once told me that he learned the most, after he received his doctorate from Cambridge University in England. It is our experience, including our association with other people, that provides a valuable education. Proverbs 9:9 reads, "Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be yet wiser: teach a just man, and he will increase in learning." When guests come from America, or from anywhere, I often think, "I want to learn all I can from these people." To be sure, they have much to teach me.

We do have to be careful what we are learning. If we are learning things which contradict the Bible, it can be very harmful. This situation is spoken of in II Timothy 3:7, "Ever learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth." We want to learn wholesome things.

Learning to be taught, is beginning with being humble. To feel and act like we are very humble and others should be like us, is really not a very humble attitude. It is probably better for us to have the attitude that we try to be humble but God is the final judge as to who is really humble. Philippians 2:3 reads, "In lowliness of mind let each esteem

other better than themselves." If what others do is not in accordance with the Word of God, we may point that out but we are not to put ourselves above others.

The Apostle Paul wrote in Ephesians 3:8, "Unto me, whom am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given." In our Apostolic Christian Church there is a tradition to end written correspondence with the words, "Your least brother" or "Your least sister". Some say we don't really mean it so why write it. If we do write it, let's try to mean it. Let's remember that we are still learning. We don't have all the answers.

Teachers have much to learn from their students. Likewise, ministers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ has much to learn from the people in the pews. It is just that ministers have the responsibility to exhort on the Word of God. There may be much wiser people sitting in the pews, listening. We must be willing to be taught, we must be willing to learn. The attitude that we know it all is unacceptable with God. Romans 12:3 reads, "For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think." All of us are still learning. We are learning many things pertaining to this world, and we want to learn many things pertaining to the next world, and how to do God's will.



*Giving thanks always for all things unto God...*

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